ISSN 0229-0103

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

# CEREBUS

26 MAY

$1.50

## HIGH SOCIETY

# HIGH SOCIETY

DAVE SIM
CREATOR WRITER/ARTIST/LETTERER
PRODUCER/DIRECTOR
NARRATION/CHARACTER VOICES

DENI LOUBERT
ORIGINAL PUBLISHER

JOHN SCRUDDER
PRODUCER/DIRECTOR
CEREBUS DIGITAL
BEHIND THE PANELS
www.behindthepanels.com

GEORGE PETER GATSIS
AUDIO & DIGITAL TECHNICAL PRODUCER
SOUND EFFECTS & MUSIC DESIGNER
ARCHIVE LAYOUT
www.georgepetergatsis.com

SANDEEP ATWAL
PRODUCER
DIGITAL SCANNING
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

DAVE FISHER
for CEREBUS TV
PROMOTION COORDINATOR

MARGARET LISS
Proofreading

PUBLIC DOMAIN
MUSIC & SOUND EFFECTS
GarageBand, Apple Inc.

ISBN : 0-919359-07-8

Dave and Deni met December 16, 1976.
They married October 6, 1978.
Separated August 20, 1983.
Divorced August 1986.

All ads, contests, contact information
in the letters, ads and archive pages are null and void!
IT'S, LIKE, 30 YEARS AGO, EH?

visit us @
www.cerebusdownloads.com

Dave Sim is willing to do Ball Point Sketches for $100 each.
You can contact Dave at:
Box 1674, Station "C"
Kitchener, Ontario
N2G 4R2, CANADA
Phone: 1-519-576-0610
Fax: 1-519-576-0955

# A Note from the Publisher

My note this time is going to be brief. I know I have promised this before, but this time I really mean it! I'm really happy with the mail we've been getting in the last two months or so. So many people have written in to say good things about Cerebus and I want you all to know that the mail is THE EVENT around here. We savour every good letter and fret and worry (especially Dave!) over every word of reproach in any letter. I hope that you realize that the whole idea of Cerebus is to make something the fans can really enjoy. So what you say about Cerebus means a great deal to us. We do it so you can enjoy it and because we like to believe that you are much more intelligent than what I feel some other publishers (I won't name any names) like to believe. So thanks for all the letters of encouragement and discouragement. We can't know what you think of all this if you don't let us know!! I'll see you next issue.

Deni

CEREBUS

VOL. 1 NO. 26 MAY, 1981

Publisher
Denise Loubert

Cerebus Fan Club
c/o Fred Patten
11863 West Jefferson Blvd.
Culver City, California
90230
Membership . . . $5.00 per year

Back Issues and Subscriptions
Now and Then Books
103 Queen St. South
Kitchener, Ontario

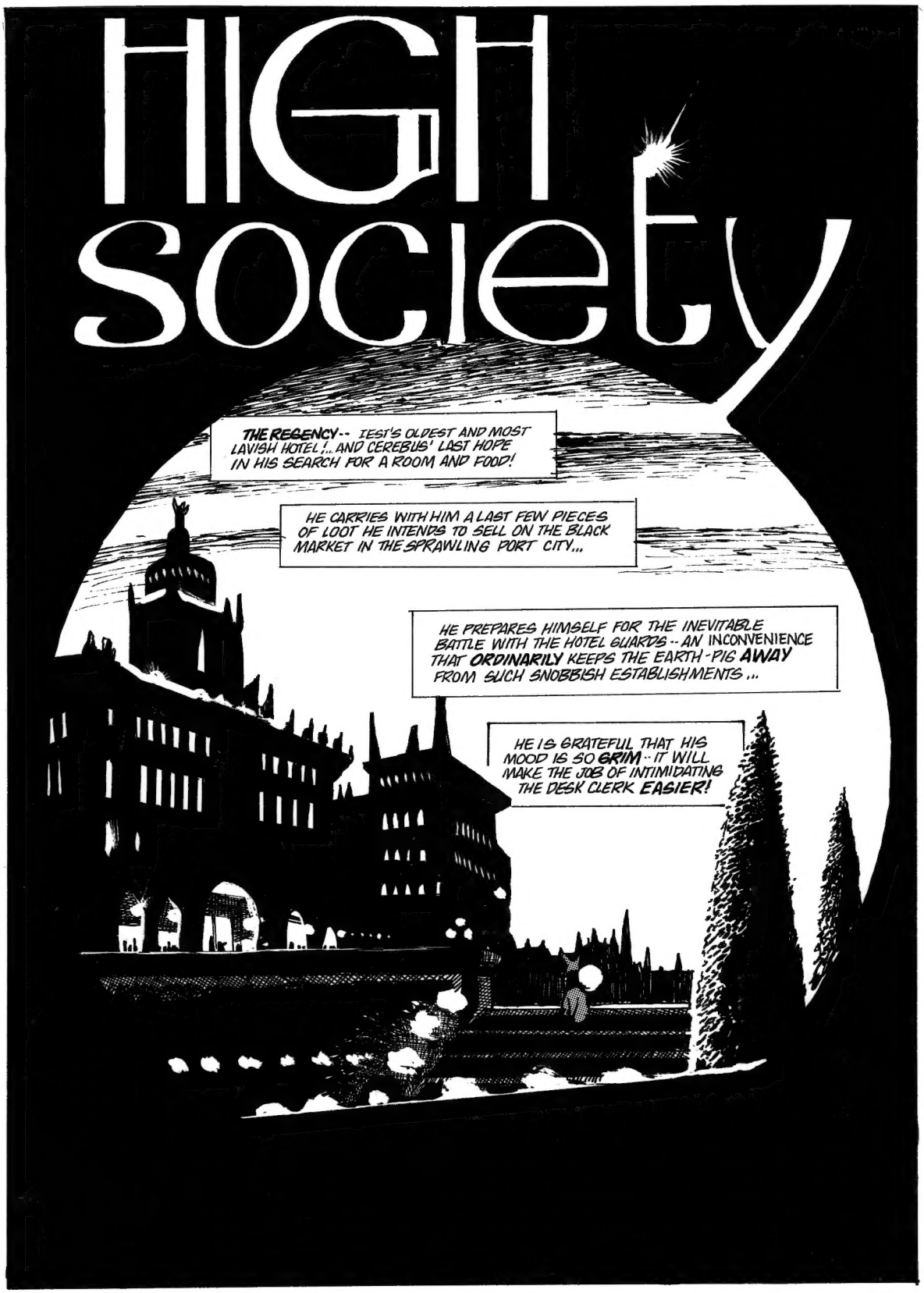
Original Art (interior pages)
THE ARTMAN
1620 Valley Street
Fort Lee, New Jersey
07024

Original Art (covers)
Dave Sim
221 Queen St. South #1401
Kitchener, Ontario
N2G 1W5

If you want information on Cerebus (news, quotes, etc.) contact our Publicity Agent:

Robert W. Rittinger
24 Cait Ave. #4
Kitchener, Ontario

CEREBUS THE AARDVARK is published fifteen times a year by Aardvark-Vanaheim Press, 221 Queen St. South#1401, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, N2G 1W5, including three "Swords of Cerebus" in January, May and September. All contents 1981 Dave Sim. Any inquiries regarding use of the characters, images, or situations depicted should be addressed to Denise Loubert. No unauthorized reproduction allowed except for review or other Journalist purpose. Advertising rates furnished on request. Printed in Canada by Preney Print & Litho Inc., Windsor, Ontario.


HIGH society
THE REGENCY-- IESI'S OLDEST AND MOST LAVISH HOTEL!.. AND CEREBUS' LAST HOPE IN HIS SEARCH FOR A ROOM AND FOOD!
HE CARRIES WITH HIM A LAST FEW PIECES OF LOOT HE INTENDS TO SELL ON THE BLACK MARKET IN THE SPRAWLING PORT CITY...
HE PREPARES HIMSELF FOR THE INEVITABLE BATTLE WITH THE HOTEL GUARDS -- AN INCONVENIENCE THAT ORDINARILY KEEPS THE EARTH-PIG AWAY FROM SUCH SNOBBISH ESTABLISHMENTS...
HE IS GRATEFUL THAT HIS MOOD IS SO GRIM -- IT WILL MAKE THE JOB OF INTIMIDATING THE DESK CLERK EASIER!

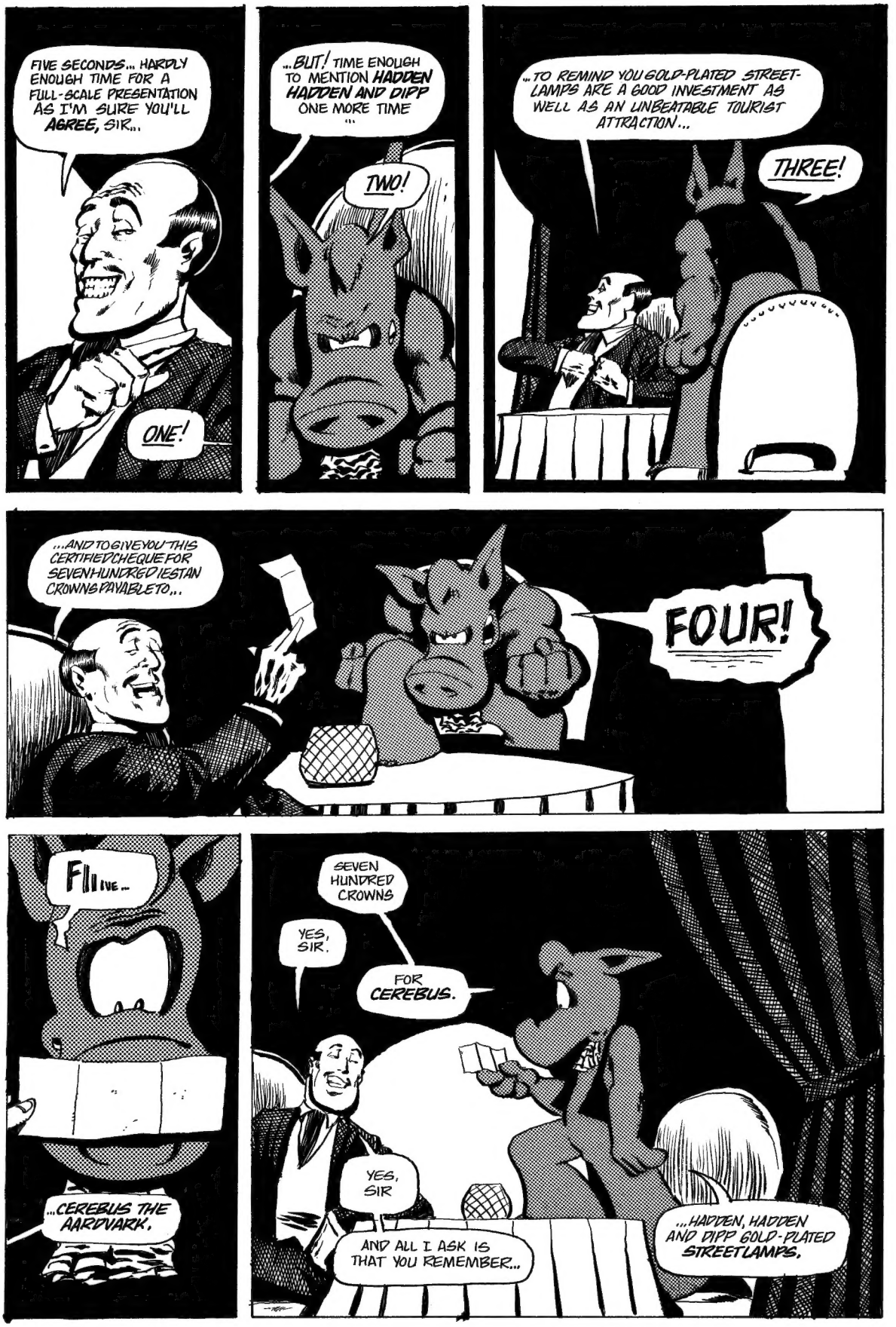
AND THE EARTH-PIG'S MOOD, DAMPENED BY ENDLESS MILES OF SWAMP IS GRIM, INDEED! HE SCOWLS AT THE DESK CLERK EVEN AS HE ENTERS THE LOBBY...
"THEY MUST BREED THEM FOR ARROGANCE" THINKS THE AARDVARK AS HE APPROACHES, NOISILY...
NO ROOMS.
SORRY.
CEREBUS HAS JUST CARRIED THIS SACK OVER FIFTY MILES THROUGH THE WORST SWAMPS IN ESTARCION -- NOW -- IF YOU DON'T WANT CEREBUS TO FORCE-FEED YOU TO ONE OF THOSE STONE LIONS OUTSIDE, YOU...
CEREBUS?
DID YOU SAY 'CEREBUS', SIR?
AYE -- CEREBUS THE AARDVARK.
HENRY! TAKE OVER FOR ME!
I'M SORRY, SIR, WE HAD NO ADVANCE NOTICE OF YOUR ARRIVAL. I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM...
ROOM?
uh...
OKAY.

IF YOU'LL LEAVE YOUR BAG DOWN HERE, ONE OF OUR BOYS WILL TAKE IT...
THAT'S WHY CEREBUS IS KEEPING IT WITH HIM...
UM...
...YES...
OF COURSE.
YOU'LL WANT A BATH BEFORE EATING...
NAY -- THE RIVER IS TOO FAR...
AND TOO COLD, NOW THAT THE SUN IS DOWN...
ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF A BATH HERE IN YOUR ROOM, SIR
I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF HAVING ONE DRAWN FOR YOU...
OH
UH
AYE.
I'LL BE BACK WITHIN THE HOUR, SIR...
CEREBUS UNDRESSES SLOWLY -- HE NOW HAD A ROOM AND WOULD SOON HAVE FOOD..
...WHY, THEN, WAS HIS MOOD GETTING WORSE INSTEAD OF BETTER?

SIR?
AH! THERE YOU ARE!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR BOY?
HE LEFT.
WHEN CEREBUS' FUR GETS WET, IT TAKES A STRONG STOMACH TO STAY IN THE VICINITY...
I SEE WHAT YOU =KOFF= MEAN
SORT OF LINGERS IN THE AIR-- DOESN'T IT?
SHALL WE ADJOURN TO THE DINING ROOM?
JUST A MINUTE.
CEREBUS WANTS TO TALK ABOUT COST...
SIR?
THIS RED CARPET TREATMENT ...
HOW BIG A DENT IS IT GOING TO PUT IN CEREBUS' BANKROLL ...
WHY-- IF IT WOULDN'T INSULT YOU, OF COURSE THE MANAGEMENT WOULD BE HONOURED IF YOU WOULD STAY HERE AS OUR GUEST!
CEREBUS WOULDN'T BE INSULTED...
MEALS INCLUDED, EH?
MOST ASSUREDLY-- YOU'LL NEED TIE, HOWEVER
CEREBUS FIGURED THERE WAS A CATCH SOMEWHERE ...
THIS BETTER BE GOOD!

IT WAS ALL THE DESK CLERK'S FAULT, CEREBUS DECIDED! THE EARTH-PIG HAD ARRIVED QUITE READY TO FIGHT FOR A ROOM AND THE CLERK WAS TAKING PERVERSE SATISFACTION OUT OF MAKING THE WHOLE PROCESS TOO EASY... CEREBUS INTENDED TO START A FIGHT WITH **SOMEONE** IF IT TOOK THE WHOLE REST OF THE EVENING.

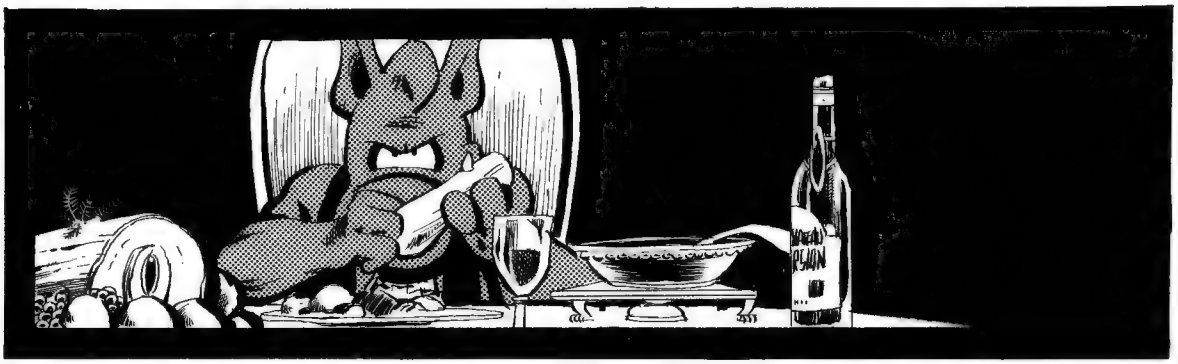
YOU EXPECT CEREBUS TO EAT IN THE MIDDLE OF A **CROWD?** WHAT KIND OF A...
CERTAINLY **NOT,** SIR...!
WE'VE SET ASIDE A PRIVATE ROOM FOR YOU, SIR.
TARIM.
CEREBUS WANTS PRIME RIB OF YAK WITH RUM AND RAISIN SAUCE...
YES, SIR
FOUR BOTTLES OF **CHATEAU DEHRSION...**
YES, SIR
FOUR DIFFERENT YEARS...
AND FOR DESSERT, ANY FRUIT THAT'S OUT OF SEASON
YES, SIR...
CEREBUS GIVES UP.
**HADDEN**-- HOLLAND M. HADDEN OF **HADDEN, HADDEN AND DIPP.** I SIMPLY CAWN'T **TELL** YOU WHAT AN **HONOUR** IT IS TO MEET YOU.
GO AWAY OR CEREBUS IS GOING TO STRIP-MINE YOUR **FACE.**
**OH! HAHAHA!** YAS. VERY GOOD. I WANT TO ASK YOU TO CONSIDER...
**GOLD-PLATED STREETLAMPS!**
YOU HAVE **FIVE SECONDS!**


FIVE SECONDS... HARDLY ENOUGH TIME FOR A FULL-SCALE PRESENTATION AS I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE, SIR...
ONE!
...BUT! TIME ENOUGH TO MENTION HADDEN AND DIPP ONE MORE TIME ...
TWO!
...TO REMIND YOU GOLD-PLATED STREET-LAMPS ARE A GOOD INVESTMENT AS WELL AS AN UNBEATABLE TOURIST ATTRACTION...
THREE!
...AND TO GIVE YOU THIS CERTIFIED CHEQUE FOR SEVEN HUNDRED IESTAN CROWNS PAYABLE TO...
FOUR!
FIIIVE...
...CEREBUS THE AARDVARK.
SEVEN HUNDRED CROWNS
YES, SIR.
FOR CEREBUS.
YES, SIR
AND ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU REMEMBER...
...HADDEN, HADDEN AND DIPP GOLD-PLATED STREETLAMPS.

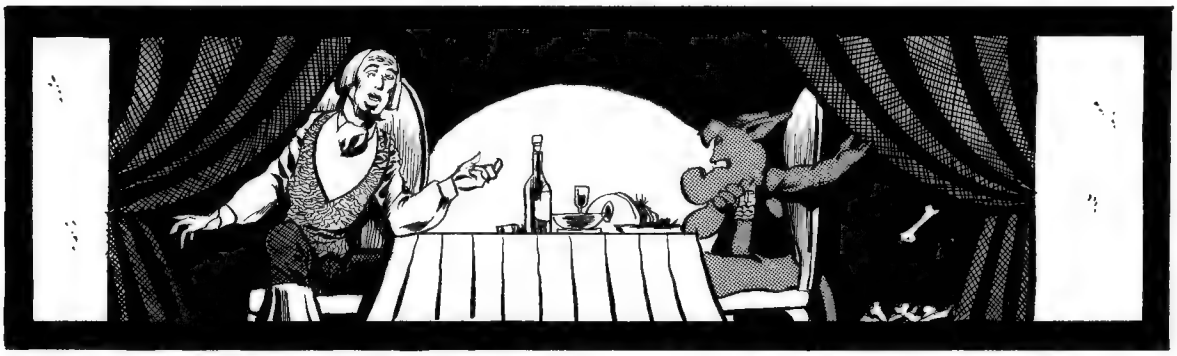
I SEE THAT WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING--SORRY TO HAVE INTERRUPTED YOU
CEREBUS DOESN'T GET IT...
AH...
EXCUSE ME.
GREELY.. NED GREELY
OF GREELY, BLEAKER AND SPLEEN ...
DON'T TELL CEREBUS. LET HIM GUESS.
YOU WANT TO TELL CEREBUS SOMETHING.
WHY, YES I...
YOU WANT CEREBUS TO REMEMBER IT
WHY, YES I...
DID YOU BRING YOUR CHEQUE BOOK?
WHY, YES I...
SIT DOWN.
AN HOUR LATER.
CHEQUES AND BANK DRAUGHTS FOR OVER FIVE THOUSAND CROWNS...
...AND THEY HAVEN'T EVEN BROUGHT THE WINE YET.
TIME FOR CEREBUS TO ASK SOMEBODY SOME QUESTIONS.
FROM FAR AWAY HAVE I COME TO SEE FAMOUS THE AARDVARK CEREBUS PLEASE
CLOSE ENOUGH. HAVE A SEAT.
MOST GREATLY!
I AM TELLING YOU SOMETHING, OKAY?

I AM TELLING YOU THERE IS TOO MUCH SEWAGE! NAME WILL BE SCORZ OF SCORZ, SCORZ AND SONS, IEST, BEDUIN, SERREA SINCE 1266
AND WHAT DO YOU HOPE CEREBUS CAN DO FOR YOU...?
SEWAGE IS PROBLEM SOLVING-- BUILD PIPES UNDERGROUND! AWAY THE SEWAGE!
MUCH SAVING. EASY TO INSTALL, REDUCE TO PERCENT SMELL OF FIFTY! NO MORE!
TARIM.
AM ALL I ASKING IS FAMOUS THE AARDVARK...
...TO REMEMBER SEWAGE PIPES AND SCORZ, SCORZ AND SONS
FAMOUS THE AARDVARK PROMISES TO REMEMBER! NOW WATCH FAMOUS' LIPS...
WHAT-DO-YOU-WANT-FAMOUS THE-AARDVARK-TO-REMEMBER IT-FOR?
NATURALLY FOR TALKING AT LORD JULIUS! FAMOUS THE AARDVARK IS FAMOUS SUPERVISOR OF THE STAFF KITCHEN. TALK AT LORD JULIUS...
OHO
TALK AT LORD JULIUS "SEWAGE, SEWAGE, SEWAGE"
DRIVE IT RIGHT THROUGH HIS BRAIN!
WHY NOT DRIVE IT THROUGH HIS BRAIN YOURSELF?
ALREADY TRIED! SEND LETTERS, JUNIOR PARTNERS AND PROMOTIONAL BROCHURE ...
FINALLY GO TO PALNU CONTACT HEAD OF PURCHASING COMMA GOVERNMENTAL MYSELF
HOY!
IS VERY VERY LONG LONG STORY ...MAY BE BORING FAMOUS THE AARDVARK
DON'T WORRY, FAMOUS HASN'T EVEN HAD HIS YAK YET
DRIVE IT THROUGH FAMOUS' BRAIN.

HEAD OF PURCHASING COMMA GOVERNMENTAL TELL ME HE IS TAKE ONLY CARE OF DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR TELL SCORZ "GO SEE BASKIN". GO SEE BASKIN. TALK AT BASKIN "**SEWAGE, SEWAGE, SEWAGE**" BASKIN SAY "INQUIRIES REGARDING PUBLIC UTILITIES ARE TO BE DIRECTED TO THE UNDERSECRETARY OF THE 'INTERNAL SECURITY TASK FORCE ON AGING IN THE HOME.'" SCORZ FILL OUT FORMS FOR HOUR AND A HALF. TWO WEEKS LATER SCORZ GET OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY OF THE "EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TASK FORCE ON AGING IN THE STREETS" INSIDE, SCORZ FIND FORMAL DECLARATION OF WAR AND INVITATION TO FESTIVAL OF PETUNIAS."



UNFORTUNATELY, SCORZ HAD NO ARMY AND NO PLACE TO RENT COSTUME. COMES IN NEXT COMMUNICATION SPECIAL ONE-TIME-ONLY, TOO-GOOD-TO-TRULY-BE OFFER! OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND OBFUSCATION MAKE AVAILABLE TO VALUED CUSTOMERS A DIRECTORY OF PAUNU'S EXECUTIVES, STUDY GROUPS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS! SMALL CHARGE FOR HANDLING. WITH TAX, CONSULTING FEE AND LABOUR CHARGES, DIRECTORY COME TO ONLY FORTY-NINE CROWNS, TWO WEEKS LATER COMES NEXT NOTE "OWING TO INCREASED COSTS, DIRECTORY NOW COST **TWO HUNDRED** AND FORTY-NINE CROWNS. SEND MORE MONEY WITH COURIER."



NEXT LETTER ARRIVES FROM THE OFFICE OF CENTRAL INFORMATION. LETTER THANKS SCORZ, SCORZ AND SONS FOR CONTRIBUTION TO LORD JULIUS' STUDY GROUP EXAMINING METROPOLITAN FORESTRY. LETTER APOLOGIZED FOR DELAY IN ANSWERING. SCORZ WRITE LETTER TO STUDY GROUP DEMANDING COPY OF DIRECTORY. NEXT LETTER ARRIVE, STUDY GROUP DISSOLVED BY LORD JULIUS OWING TO LACK OF FOREST AREAS IN METROPOLITAN CENTRES. LETTER SAY LORD JULIUS CONSIDERING IDEA OF A DIRECTORY. WILL GET BACK TO SCORZ.

EVERY TIME MAIL ARRIVE SCORZ BREAK OUT IN HIVES.

WARMING TO HIS SUBJECT, SCORZ BEGINS TO MAKE A CASE FOR CEREBUS BECOMING AN EMPLOYEE OF SCORZ, SCORZ AND SONS...

BUT THE EARTH-PIG'S THOUGHTS ARE ALREADY **ELSEWHERE** AS HE THINKS BACK TO HIS DAYS IN PALNU,

HE IS NOT SO GREATLY SURPRISED BY HIS RECEPTION, NOW. HE REMEMBERS THE LINES OF BUSINESSMEN, CABINET MINISTERS AND UNDERLINGS THAT DAILY PASSED THROUGH THE DOORS OF LORD JULIUS' OFFICE. ALL WITH THE SAME DISGUSTING LOOK OF WELL-DRESSED BEGGARS WHINING FOR A HAND-OUT HE NOW SAW ACROSS THE TABLE.

SIPPING THOUGHTFULLY FROM HIS FINGER-BOWL CEREBUS DECIDES THAT HE HAS HAD ENOUGH OF THIS AGGRAVATION. THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING THAT WOULD ALLEVIATE HIS FOUL MOOD.

CEREBUS HAD TO FIND SOMEONE TO BEAT UP.

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, LORD JULIUS ALREADY HAS A PLAN FOR PALNU'S SEWAGE -- HE INTENDS TO HAVE IT MOULDED INTO HUGE BALLS AND ROLLED DOWNHILL INTO ONLIU TERRITORY. CEREBUS HAS TO LEAVE NOW...
BUT...
I'LL BET YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME.
CEREBUS?
EXCUSE ME...
I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY, SIR
I MET YOU IN PALNU DURING THE FESTIVAL.
CEREBUS, SIR IF I COULD JUST TALK TO YOU FOR...
SIR?
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR AN HOUR! IF WE COULD JUST...
IF I COULD HAVE A MINUTE OR SO...
SIR?
CEREBUS! CEREBUS!
SIR? I REPRESENT THE GUILD OF
EXCUSE ME, CEREBUS
OVER HERE, CEREBUS.
BUT...
BELCH!
THE NERVES OF A RIVERBOAT GAMBLER!
EASILY ONE OF THE TOP THREE NEGOTIATORS IN ESTARCION
WHAT STYLE!
WHAT PANACHE!
IF I HAD SOMEONE LIKE HIM ON STAFF
YOU CAN SEE WHY LORD JULIUS TRUSTS HIM WITH SUCH A SENSITIVE CABINET POSITION
NOW WHO DOES CEREBUS HATE ENOUGH IN IEST TO BEAT UP...?

VON CROYDER! AVE
A FEW OLD SCORES TO SETTLE WITH THAT IDIOT ...
THERE'S AN EXTRA TWENTY CROWNS FOR YOU IF WE REACH THE DOCKS WITHIN THE HOUR...
SORRY, SIR. I'M WAITING FOR MR. CARRON ...
MR. CARRON WILL HAVE TO FIND HIMSELF ANOTHER CAB...
LET'S GO.
GET AWAY FROM THAT CAB, YOU SCRUFFY LITTLE HOODLUM!...
TAKE THAT!
AND BE GRATEFUL THAT I DON'T HAVE YOU ARRESTED, URCHIN...!
CRAK
YOU JUST MADE A BIG MISTAKE, MISTER CARRON...!

OF ALL THE IMPERTINENCE!
MAYBE THIS WILL TEACH YOU TO NOT TALK BACK TO YOUR BETTERS!
AND...
...THIS!
AND...
ALL RIGHT! THAT'S ENOUGH!
SNATCH!
YOU WANT TO FIGHT?
WE'LL FIGHT!...
WITHOUT
THIS!
SNAP
THAT CANE HAS BEEN IN MY FAMILY FOR A HUNDRED YEARS, YOU MISSHAPEN LITTLE GUTTERSNIPE...
I WAS WILLING TO LET YOU GO AFTER A FEW PUNITIVE BLOWS...
NOW, ALTHOUGH I DEPLORE VIOLENCE IN THE STREETS ...
I AM AFRAID I SHALL HAVE TO THRASH YOU TO WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR WORTHLESS LIFE
WHENEVER YOU'RE READY, BLONDIE!

I SHALL TRY MY BEST TO REFRAIN FROM CAUSING YOU ANY PERMANENT INJURY...
CEREBUS HAS BEEN WAITING ALL DAY FOR THIS, BLONDIE!
CEREBUS?
WELL, THIS IS A STROKE OF LUCK...
CARRON
OF CARRON, McKIEL AND BENNY.
STOW IT, BLONDIE!
CEREBUS IS GOING TO BEAT YOU TO A PULP!
OH, OF COURSE
IN FACT, I INSIST!
I'M SURE IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO...
AFTER BEING SUCH AN ABSOLUTE PIG...
YOU MEAN YOU'RE JUST GOING TO STAND THERE WHILE CEREBUS BEATS YOU TO A PULP?
EXACTLY SO...
HERE, LET ME MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU...
CEREBUS DOESN'T BELIEVE THIS...
ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU NOT HOLD THIS AGAINST MY COMPANY-- THEY CAN BE OF GREAT HELP TO PALNU...

GAH!
WAIT!
I'M LETTING YOU BEAT ME UP!
PLEASE!
MY COMPANY HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET A CONTRACT WITH PALNU FOR...
FIVE YEARS.
IF MY PARTNERS FIND OUT THAT I MET CEREBUS THE AARDVARK
AND THAT I H...H...
HIT HIM!
PLEASE
YOU'VE GOT TO BEAT ME UP.
TARIM.
DRIVER!
THE DOCKS!
PLEASE!
GIVE ME MY COPY OF THE DIRECTORY, YOU LITTLE SWINE
DO YOU HEAR?
SEVEN HUNDRED CROWNS ALREADY AND YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO ASK ANOTHER FIFTY FOR STAPLES!!
YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYONE!
YOU HEAR ME?
GIVE ME MY DIRECTORY OR I'LL...I'LL ...I'LL

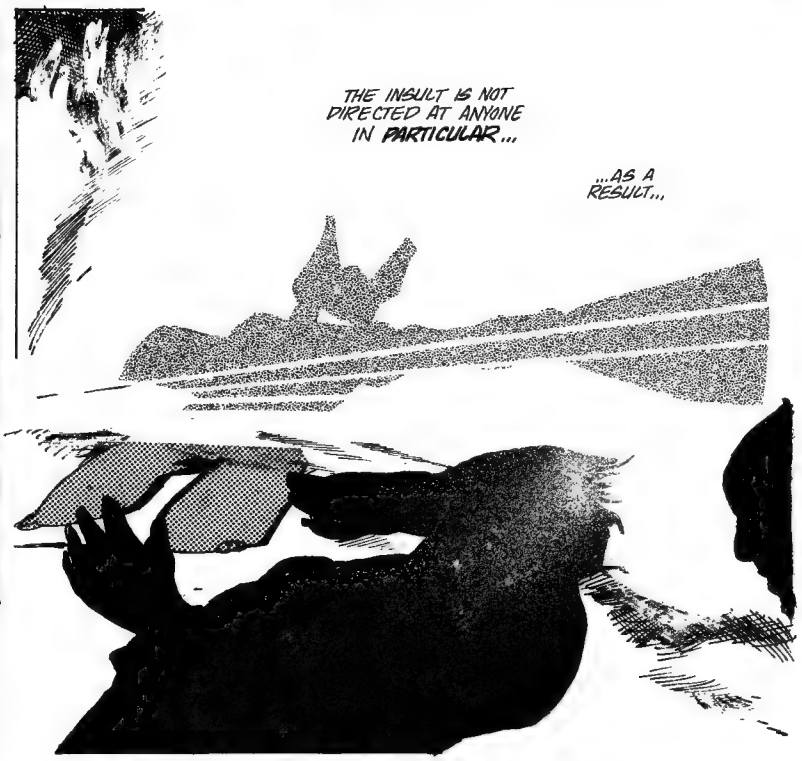
ANY SPECIFIC ADDRESS, SIR?
THAT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT, SIR. ALL THE SHOPS ARE CLOSED...
AYE, BUT FIRST CEREBUS IS GOING TO NEED A FIFTY POUND SACK OF FLOUR.
CEREBUS IS WILLING TO PAY FIFTY CROWNS
EH?
THERE'S A GROCER IN THE NEXT STREET, SIR...
I CAN ASK HIM.
MUCH POUNDING LATER...
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME...
NEVER MIND THAT--I GOT A LIVE ONE IN THE CAB...
...WILLING TO PAY FIVE CROWNS FOR A FIFTY POUND BAG OF FLOUR!
IF YOU'VE GOT ONE HANDY, I'LL SPLIT THE FIVE WITH YOU...
LET ME GET MY KEYS!
AND SO...
YOU'RE QUITE SURE THAT'S WHERE YOU WANT TO GO, SIR?
CEREBUS HIRED YOU TO DRIVE NOT TO ASK STUPID QUESTIONS.
VERY GOOD, SIR.

YOU'RE QUITE SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO WAIT HERE FOR YOU THEN, SIR?
NO--CEREBUS IS APT TO BE HERE FOR A WHILE...
AS YOU SAY, SIR.
THE RAM'S LORDS TAVERN.

SINCE THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, THE GATHERING PLACE FOR EVERY SADISTIC SEAMAN WITH THREE MONTHS' PAY AND SHORE LEAVE...
IT WAS SAID THAT THE RAMS LORDS HAD CLAIMED MORE LIVES THAN THE REVOLUTION IN UPPER FELDA...
BUT THEN...

RRIP!
CEREBUS WAS LOOKING FOR A FIGHT...

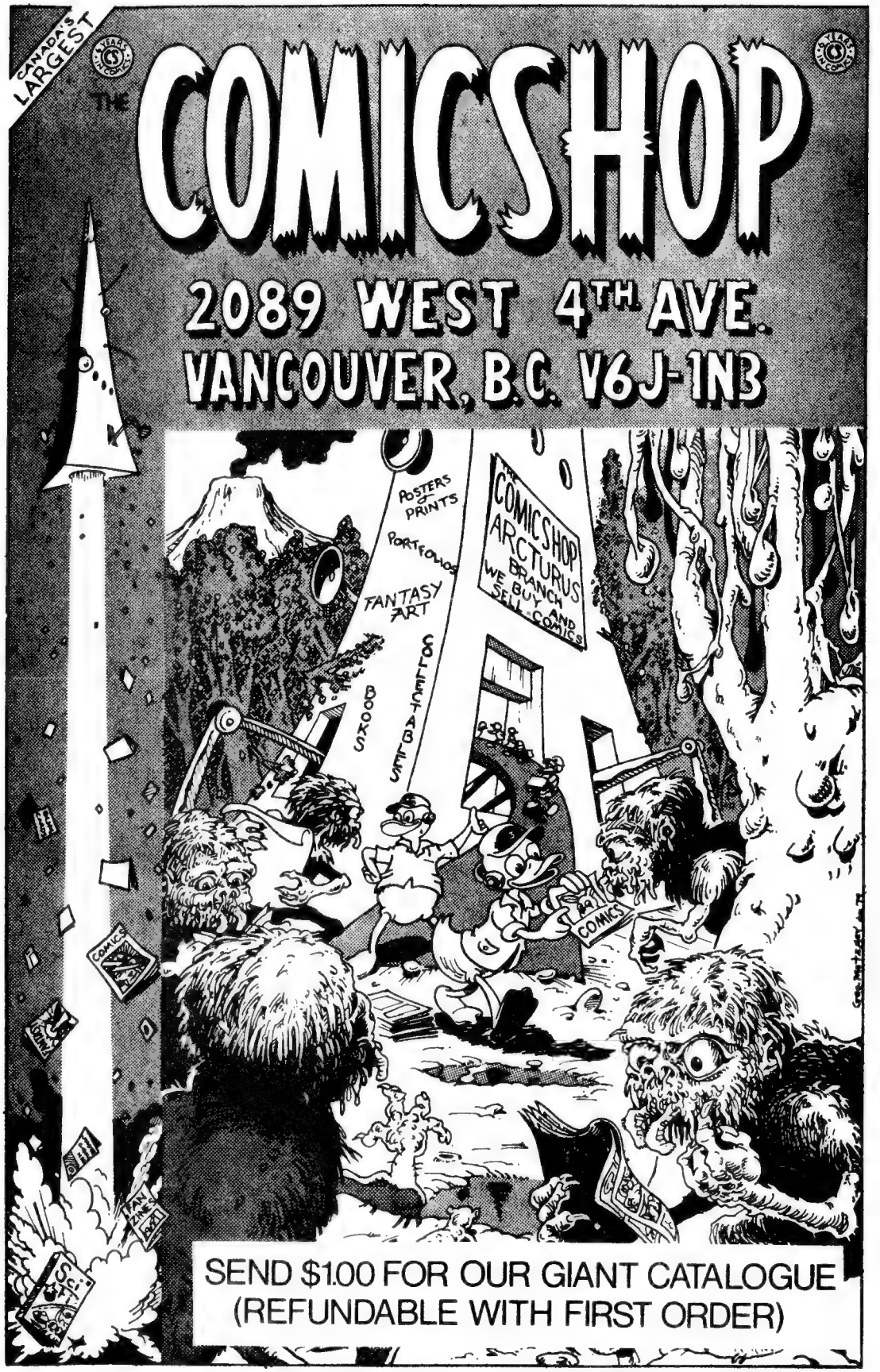
HEY! SCUM BAG! OVER HERE!!


THE INSULT IS NOT DIRECTED AT ANYONE IN PARTICULAR...
...AS A RESULT...

EVERYONE TAKES IT PERSONALLY.
FOR A MOMENT, THE ENTIRE TAVERN IS DEATHLY SILENT...
BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT.
GET 'IM!
BREAK THE LITTLE RAT IN HALF...!
CRIPPLE 'IM!
PULL HIS EARS OFF!
IMPOSSIBLE ODDS; MENTALLY UNBALANCED FOES; CRAMPED QUARTERS FOR A GOOD PUNCH-UP...
AND PEOPLE SAY IEST HAS NO NIGHT LIFE...
FWEEEEEEEEEE
WHAT IN...?
THE DOCK POLICE!
DOCK POLICE!
IT'S A TRAP!
GET BACK!

DOCK POLICE?
CEREBUS THOUGHT THE DOCK POLICE NEVER CAME INTO THE RAM'S LORDS...
BAF
CRAK
CRUNK
WAK
CAPTAIN HILL-HODGES; WATERFRONT SPECIAL SECURITY, M'LORD!
WHAT DID YOU CALL CEREBUS?
DIRECTIVE TWENTY-THREE SLASH "A" RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY SOUTHERN CITY-STATE, UNDER PROTECTION OF AND/OR OBSERVATION BY IESTAN GOVERNMENT FORCES INCLUDING CITY-GUARDS, BOROUGH CONSTABULARY OR SUCH INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES AS ARE DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE GOVERNMENT, SHALL BE ADDRESSED AT ALL TIMES AS "M'LORD"
DIRECTIVE TWENTY-THREE SLASH "B" RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE IS TO BE ADDRESSED ONLY BY THE HIGHEST RANKING MEMBER OF IESTAN GOVERNMENT FORCE IN QUESTION
I'M AFRAID WE LOST SIGHT OF YOUR CAB ABOUT THREE BLOCKS FROM HERE. SHALL I REPORT OUR FAILURE TO KEEP UP WITH YOU AND HAVE THE MEN FLOGGED, M'LORD?
NOT UNLESS CEREBUS GETS TO DO THE FLOGGING HIMSELF.
I'M SORRY, M'LORD-- DIRECTIVE TWENTY-THREE SLASH "C" SPECIFICALLY FORBIDS RANKING DIPLOMATIC...
RIGHT.
CEREBUS IS GOING TO GO BACK TO HIS HOTEL... OKAY?
RIGHT YOU ARE, M'LORD IT WILL JUST TAKE TEN MINUTES TO ASSIGN YOU A SECURITY TEAM.
GOOD. THAT WILL GIVE CEREBUS A TEN-MINUTE HEAD-START...

BUT...
BUT, M'LORD!
THIS IS A DANGEROUS CITY-- AT ANY MOMENT, A GANG OF DRUNKEN THUGS COULD COME AT YOU FROM OUT OF NOWHERE -- VICIOUS COWARDS WITHOUT SCRUPLES OR..
IT'S BEEN A BAD DAY, CAPTAIN...
DON'T TRY TO CHEER CEREBUS UP...

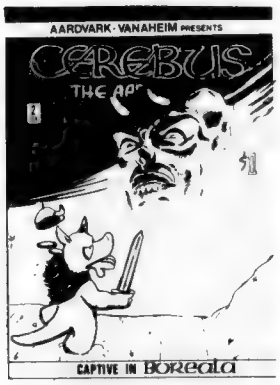

CANADA'S LARGEST
THE
COMICSHOP
2089 WEST 4TH AVE.
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6J-1N3
POSTERS
PRINTS
PORTFOLIOS
FANTASY ART
BOOKS
COLLECTABLES
THE COMICSHOP
ARCTURUS
BRANCH
WE BUY AND SELL COMICS
COMICS
COMICS
SEND $1.00 FOR OUR GIANT CATALOGUE
(REFUNDABLE WITH FIRST ORDER)

make cheques payable to:

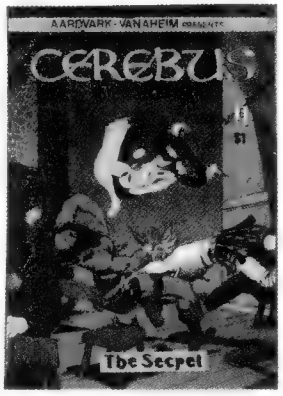
# NOW & THEN BOOKS

103 Queen St. S.
Kitchener, Ontario

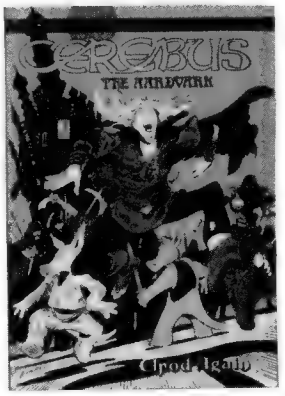
## Back Issues




No. 2 $5.00




No. 6 $3.50




No. 7 $3.00

No. 8 $3.00

**9-10 $3.00 ea. 11-15 $2.00 ea. 16-24 $1.50 ea. 25¢ postage per book**
**Swords of Cerebus Vol. 1 $5.00 - 75¢ postage and handling**
**Swords of Cerebus Vol. 2 $5.00 - 75¢ postage and handling**

## Original Artwork

### $25 per page

**Pages available:**

No. 1 pgs. 3, 6, 8, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21.
No. 2 pgs. 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 20, 21, 22.
No. 3 pgs. 3, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 17, 18, 21.
No. 5 pgs. 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 16.
No. 8 pg. 15.
No. 9 pgs. 18, 21.
No. 10 pgs. 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21.
No. 11 pgs. 2, 17, 21, 22.
No. 12 pg. 22.
No. 13 pgs. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 19, 21.
No. 14 pgs. 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 16, 17, 19, 20.

### $30 per page

No. 15 pgs. 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 18, 20.
No. 16 pgs. 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 18, 19, 20.
No. 17 pgs. 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 19, 20.
No. 18 pgs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20.
No. 19 pgs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 18.
No. 20 pgs. 1, 7, 13, 17, 19, 20.
No. 21 pgs. 1, 4, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 20.
No. 22 pgs. 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16.
No. 23 pgs. 3, 5, 6, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.

Demonhorn Story (Nucleus) pgs. 3, 4, 5.

**Beaver's Buttons available in limited quantities for $1. plus 25¢ postage**

## Subscriptions

**12 issues for $21.00 (includes all postage)**
**wrapped securely and mailed flat.**
**indicate which issue subscription starts with.**

## Poster

$2.50 each
(signed and numbered)
4 colour 1977

## Beavers Strip Originals

**(1976-1977)**
**$8.00 ea.**

THE BEAVERS
WE NEVER HAVE ANY GOOD COOKIES AROUND HERE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN I BOUGHT FOUR BAGS OF THEM... OATMEAL! GARBEC GOO'S, MALLOWS...
YES-- BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY PURPOSE DELIGHTS
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ATE ALL OF THEM 'AT ONE SHOT!
YOU SHOULDN'T LET THINGS UPSET YOU SO MUCH, REE?..

## Other "Sim Stuff"

Octoberfest 1 (1976) Dave Sim and Gene Day ... $1.00 ea.
Star*Reach 7 $1.50 ea.
Imagine 1 & 4 $1.50 ea.

**Phantacea 1 $1.25 ea.**
**Quack 3, 4, & 5 $1.50 ea.**
**Nucleus 1 $1.75 ea.**
**Cerebus Story: "Demonhorn"**

# AARDVARK COMMENT

221 QUEEN ST S. #1401 - KITCHENER-ONTARIO N2G 1W5

Dear Deni:

Now that I've had a chance to read CEREBUS #23 which arrived yesterday, I'd like to offer a few comments on it and more on CEREBUS in general. I think this is your best issue yet. The cover, the interior art, the story -- all seem to be at a slightly higher level of quality than anything you've done before, though you may have had stories that were funnier or more dramatic. This seems to be the best blend of all the elements that go together to make a work really satisfying.

But -- on the whole, I agree with Dennis Summer's criticism on your letters page. I haven't felt strongly enough about this to comment on it before, but you've had a number of unsatisfying transitions from one plot to another, leaving too many points unanswered. I know that you consider CEREBUS to be a humor magazine in a superficially-dramatic format, rather than an actual adventure strip; but what counts is whether the reader feels satisfied with the way the story is presented, and the overall impression that several stories have left is that they were good but that they had a few very noticeable rough spots that should've been worked on more carefully. You yourself talk in this letter column about introducing coherent plots to comic book humor; these "cheap" transitions damage your coherence. (Besides, with all due respect, I think that Carl Barks has to be acknowledged as having regularly produced coherent plots in humorous comic books for many years. His classic DONALD DUCK and UNCLE SCROOGE stories such as "Lost in the Andes" and "The Golden Helmet" are certainly neither straight adventure strips nor theatre-of-the-absurd comedies.)

Twice now you've put Cerebus in command of mighty armies bent on conquest and then separated him from them & destroyed them offstage. (Issues 9 & 22.) The first time it was okay, but the second instance struck me as being both repetitious and an unsatisfactory resolution to the question of how Cerebus was going to handle his personal relationships with both the T'Gitans and with Lord Julius. In fact, in the letter column in issue 19 Dave said he wanted to make the T'Gitan assault on Palnu as realistic as possible, which led me to expect a really dynamic climax to that story after all the build-up to it was completed. Instead it's dismissed in a single offhand reference to an offstage event in issue 22. When I read that I frankly wondered whether President Weisshaupt was lying in order to retain Cerebus' services, and that Cerebus would eventually find himself still in time for the T'Gitan-Palnan confrontation; but issue 23 makes it look as though you really have finished with that story completely & are going on to something else. So even though the moment-to-moment action in the last several issues has been quite satisfying, I'm irritated that the Palnu adventure seems to have been abandoned rather than resolved.

I fully share Summers' feelings on your transition from #20 to #21. The complaint isn't over the transition itself -- it's an excellent shock and I like shocks in my leisure reading -- but the fact that there's never any explanation for it. I like mysteries when they're solved at the end of the story, not when they leave major questiones unanswered. How and why did Cerebus get moved from Togith to Beduin? You might be able to come up with some snappy, humorous reply to this, but it'll take more than that to make me, the reader, feel really satisfied. Summers is right; whatever you may have thought you were doing, it looks like you just wrote yourself into a corner and took a cheap way out rather than really solving the problem of how to get Cerebus away from the Cirinists. And that cheapens the whole story.

As a reader I'm also unsatisfied with the way you've dropped Lord Julius from the story. Not over his being dropped, but the casual way that you've done it. If he'd just disappeared after issue 16, when Cerebus left Palnu, that would've been perfectly natural. After all, Cerebus is the focal point of the magazine and the reader wouldn't expect to see Lord Julius continue on stage after Cerebus moves on. But Lord Julius did continue on stage. For the next three issues you kept flashing back to him in "Meanwhile, in Palnu...." asides, which led your audience to expect that he would continue to be pertinent to Cerebus' adventures -- or that, at the least, we could look forward to an enjoyably exciting confrontation between Lord Julius and Lord Gorce for the control of Palnu. Instead this subplot seems to have fizzled out completely. I'm sure you haven't totally abandoned such a popular character as Lord Julius, and I won't be surprised if (to suggest one possibility) Cerebus eventually runs into him in exile and undertakes to restore him to power in Palnu. But that will be a new adventure. My whole point is that, as a reader, I had been looking forward with anticipation during the past few issues to a confrontation between Lord Julius and Cerebus with Cerebus as the commander of the T'Gitan horde, or to a confrontation between Lord Julius and Lord Gorce with or without Cerebus on the scene. Now I have a feeling of dissatisfaction over the way you seem to have just forgotten about this subtheme. It smacks of sloppiness rather than conscious planning.

I was also left with a feeling that there was something not quite right about Cerebus' abandonment of Weisshaupt at the conclusion of #22. Granted that Cerebus might be peeved by Weisshaupt's condescension toward him, he still seemed to have stronger reasons of self-interest to support Weisshaupt -- the offer of a comfortable position of power in Weisshaupt's cabinet -- than to let this opportunity disintegrate and become a lonely refugee. And, as I said, I was also left with a feeling of wrongness over the whole transition from #20 to #21; both over the unexplained nature of (& lack of reason for) that transition, and over the fact that it left Cerebus' relationship with the Cirinists and the Illusionists unresolved.

Maybe the problem is in me for wanting CEREBUS to be more of an adventure book and less of a humor book than it's intended to be. But these lapses of continuity seem to be due to poorly thought-out plotting more than to the fact that CEREBUS is supposed to be a humor magazine. I realize that Dave is doing a superhuman job of writing already, but if he can devote just a bit more seriousness to covering all the loose ends in a story, rather than feeling that they don't matter because CEREBUS isn't a serious adventure title, the result will be greater reader satisfaction.

Best,

Fred Patten
11863 West Jefferson Blvd.
Culver City, Calif. 90230

*I concede your point on Carl Barks, only insofar as single issues go. With all do respect to you, I don't believe Barks had a coherent world-view of the imaginary characters he was creating that remained faithful to the previous issue's continuity (i.e. Donald Duck's sudden appearance as a Museum Guard in "The Golden Helmet" does not continue in the next story. Profession, disposition, environment and social status were manipulated from issue to issue as called for by the single issue plot. I try to maintain the reality from issue to issue. I enhance the reality, but I never arbitrarily change it for convenience sake).*

*"Mighty armies" is your phrase, not mine. The Conniptins were enthusastic, and within their own limited framework, probably quite an adequate army, but come on! Look at lest (their ultimate target) as depicted in this issue. It's a city for heaven's sake. It would be like taking a band of snarky shepherds with good sword arms out of Scotland and racing south to lay siege to London. Ditto for the T'Gitans. It was a unique alliance that had been forged, largely by the diplomatic proficiency of Gudre, between several T'Gitan tribes. With the reduced troop strength reaching crisis proportion in Palnu and its territories, they had a very very small but real chance of making it to the city gates. They had an even smaller chance of getting inside, but who knows? Perhaps under cover of darkness or in the middle of a bad storm. The*

# AARDVARK COMMENT

221 QUEEN ST S. #1401 - KITCHENER-ONTARIO N2G 1W5

*introduction of the Lord Gorce character changed the whole complexion of the matter. The T'Gitans didn't stand a chance once he had all the armies he needed -- needed in the sense of decided over-kill. Gorce wasn't going to stop until he had the T'Gitans facing absolutely impossible odds.*

*This, of course, raises the question; What was I trying to accomplish? Foremost, I was using the armies as an illustration of Cerebus' complete lack of expertise in the area. You mistake the Earth-pig's enthusiasm (Essentially no better thought out than "Hot Diggety! A good scrap!") for cold, analytical strategy. This was a viewpoint I was trying to illustrate in recent issues; Cerebus' wariness of getting swept up into someone else's quarrel. Remember, he couldn't find any flaw in Gudre's plan, even though it was flawed to the degree that Lord Gorce made quick work of the T'Gitan hordes. He is learning to not trust his instincts when it comes to picking an army to fight with. His instincts in that area are not particularly good.*

*I'm afraid the letters page reference in #19 falls under the category of Dave Sim and His Big Mouth. I now avoid plotting my next few issues on the letters page. Suffice to say the emergence of Lord Julius' popularity as a character and a revived interest on my part in charting more of what conspires in the bizarre city of Palnu, made the whole idea of just filling the streets with corpses while T'Gitans sack the city unappealing in the extreme. Combined with the improbability of such an occurence (as described above) this made me shift the direction of the Palnu story onto a new tangent (this issue should give you an idea of how Palnu's impact on Cerebus' life continues).*

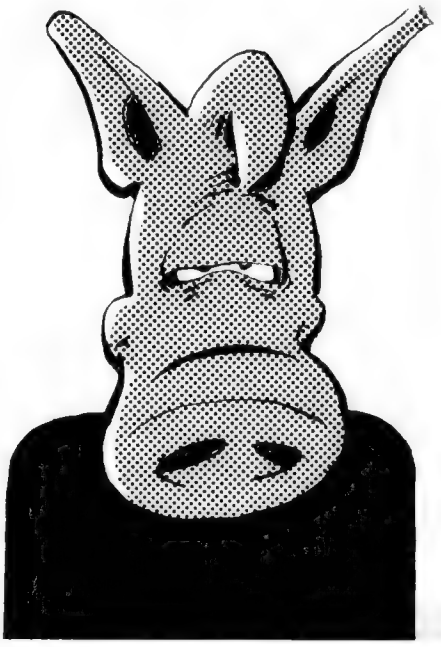
*The problem of how Cerebus got from Togith to Beduin has already been worked out. I could explain it all here, but since it involves people you haven't met, disciplines I haven't touched on and power groups on the very fringes of Estarcion society that haven't nearly been revealed even fragmentally, I doubt that you would derive as much entertainment value from it as you will by just being patient and reading each issue as it comes out. How would you have liked it if I had revealed on the letters page in #14 that Jaka was Lord Julius' niece? Would have made the ending to #16 something of a clunker wouldn't it? The situation is comparable. Believe me.*

*Sloppiness, indeed. If I had signed an agreement with my fans at the outset of Cerebus' run, promising to wrap up every plot development within six issues, then I think you might have a case. To re-iterate -- I'm going to be doing Cerebus for another twenty-three years. I could have kept Lord Julius in the book long past issue #16. I think that issue (to use it again as an example) illustrates the kind of character I'm trying to develop for Lord Julius. His presence is all over this issue even though he never makes an appearance and is only referred to in the most general way. A power struggle between Lord Julius and Lord Gorce? Hardly likely. Gorce is a lightweight, suffering from the same myopia as Cerebus. The world of Estarcion is in the middle of a great social upheaval. There is great wealth and the rise of the merchant class is making all these chaps with the big armies something of the past. If Lord Gorce tried to wrest power from Lord Julius, he would be trying to buck the largest inter-related old-boy network on the continent. Lord Julius pays his armies well and his bureaucrats even better. And if Lord Gorce thought that defeating a bunch of uncouth barbarians from the north was going to win him power by acclamation, he was not facing the fact that virtually the whole population of Palnu is either directly or indirectly employed by the government. With Lord Julius' rotating bureaucracy (you can see someone else's experience with it in this issue's Scorz monologue) his chances of finding somewhere to drive the thin end of his revolutionary wedge were two-fold; slim and nill. The result is a paralysis on his part, but not a complete loss of influence. Like most of the rebels in Palnu he will be facing the dilemma of being independent and powerless or acquiescent and influential.*

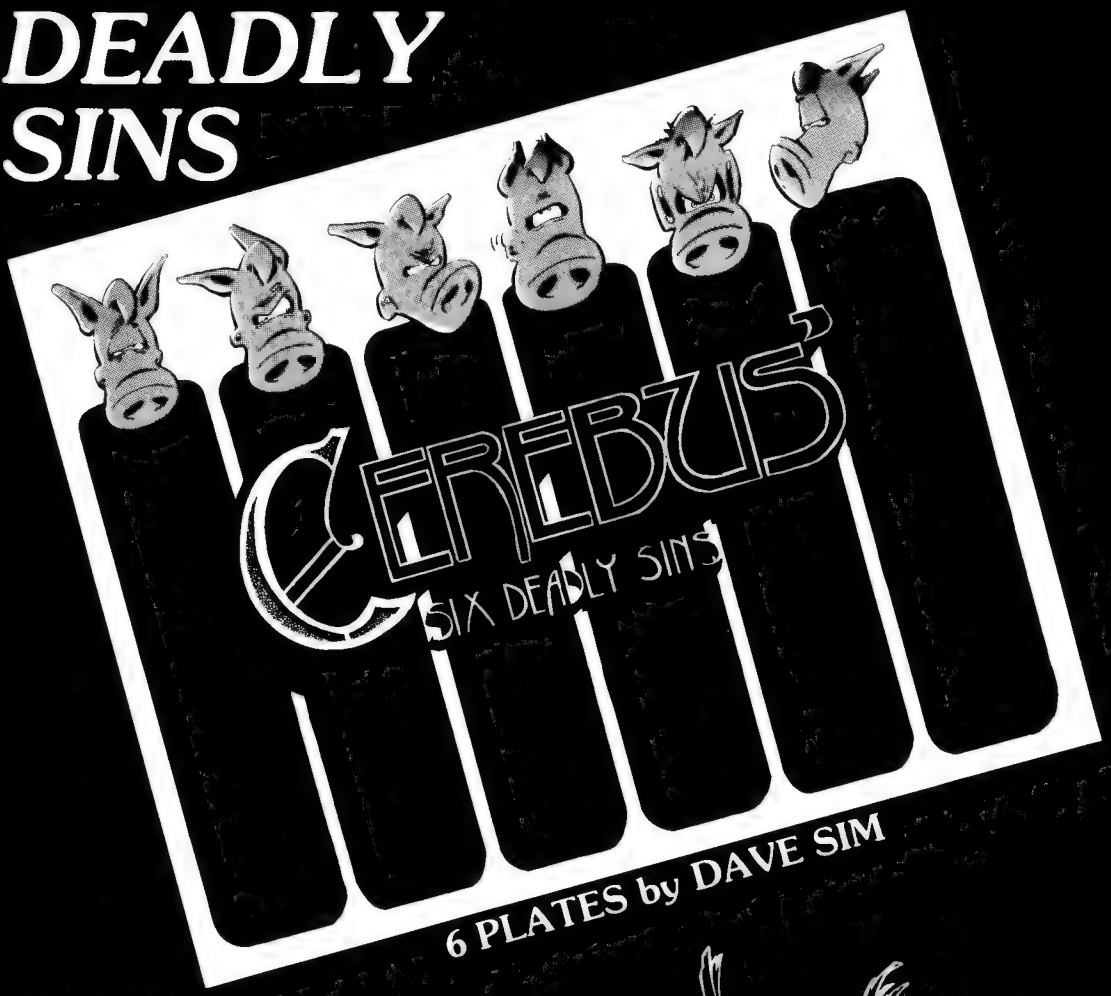
*Weisshaupt was a millionaire nut. He is not unlike the current spate of 19th century conservatives who figure you can run a country like a corporation. Once his face was known and there was no hope for Elrod to assist in getting his activities sanctioned, he was only going one place; military jail and then the gallows. The Military Government of Lower Felda doesn't tolerate any movement from the private sector into their domain; governing. Cerebus had nothing to gain by staying with Weisshaupt.*

*The Cirinists are the most recent incarnation of the original matriarchal society that once dominated Estarcion. They have a foothold now that they have formed the revolutionary government of Upper Felda, but almost everywhere else on the map, they are either a grudgingly tolerated or rabidly persecuted minority. Likewise the Illusionists. The key word here is underground. Cerebus could be bumping into hard-core Illusionists and Cirinists every day and not know it. While for their part, the two groups will be having a hard time since issue #20 trying to find the Earth-pig. No matter how anyone tries to describe Cerebus physically to someone else, they never picture him looking like he does. Would you? For his part, Cerebus woke up from a bad situation and found himself out of immediate danger. What would you have done in his situation? Gone back to find out how you escaped? I doubt it. Look on issue #20 as an introduction to a whole new strata of Estarcion society seldom understood or even seen by the members of that society. His relationship to the two groups will emerge from time to time, but bear in mind that these are secret societies and an overkill on information is only going to hurt the credibility of the idea.*

*Above all, I would ask all of the readers of Cerebus to remember that Cerebus himself is trying to learn to adapt to a world not only he never made -- but one that very few individuals have managed to adapt to gradefully. His simple pursuit of money, physical comfort and frivolous pasttimes is becoming something of an albatross in the thriving new capitalism -- it becomes too easy for him to achieve his goals because his sites are set so low. The reaction at the moment is restlessness and a basic rejection of everything new in his new society. Whether Cerebus molds the environment to suit his needs or whether the society manages to change Cerebus (he hasn't slept in a tree since issue #5) is what I'll be exploring for the next two hundred and seventy-four issues. I hope you'll be here. Fred.*



# CEREBUS' SIX DEADLY SINS




SLOTH
ENVY
AVARICE
GREED
ANGER
PRIDE

$12.00

Schanes and Schanes

Schanes and Schanes, 4887 Ronson Ct. Suite E., San Diego, California 92111

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

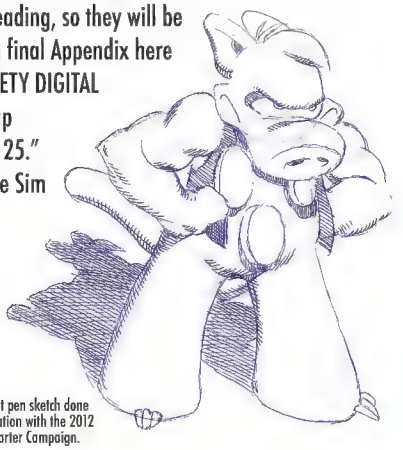
1

COMING SOON!

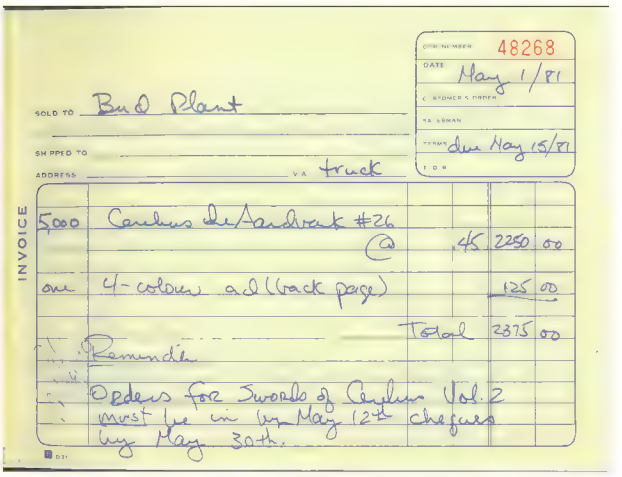
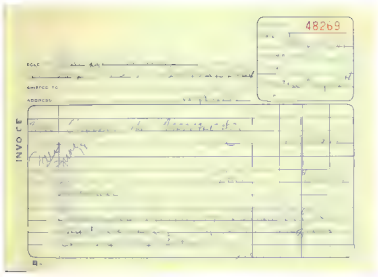
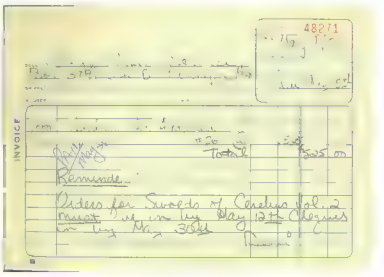
CEREBUS
ARCHIVE

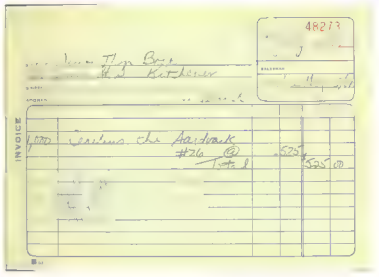
"While the invoice books do provide a good snapshot of the early history of the Direct Market – which sub-distributors were buying from which distributors and in what quantities, as an example – immediately prior to the first appearance of Diamond Comic Distributors, they don't exactly make for "gripping first issue" reading, so they will be featured as a final Appendix here in HIGH SOCIETY DIGITAL somewhere up around issue 25."

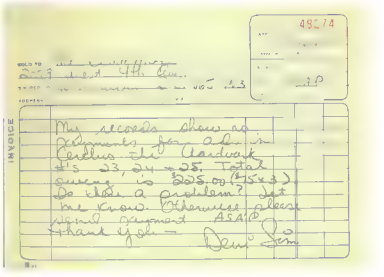
- Dave Sim

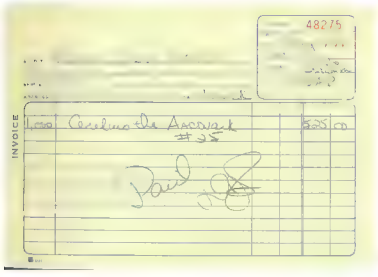


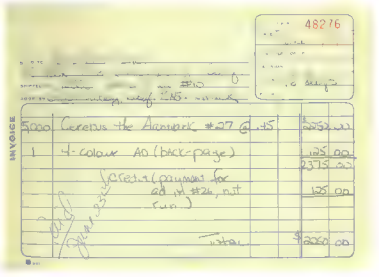
Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

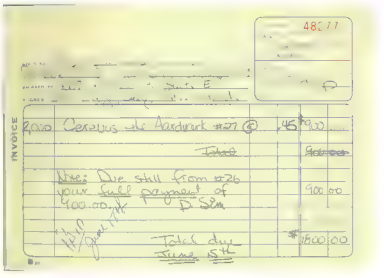
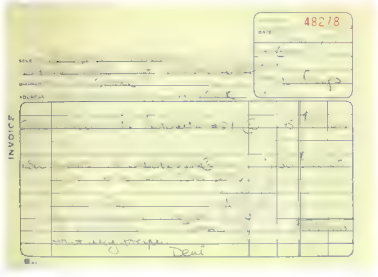

48268
SOLD TO Bud Plant
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA truck
DATE May 1/81
TERMS due May 15/81
INVOICE
5000 Cerebus the Aardvark #26 @ .45 2250 00
one 4-colour ad (back page) 125 00
Total 2375 00
Reminder
Orders for Swords of Cerebus Vol. 2 must be in by May 12th cheques by May 30th.



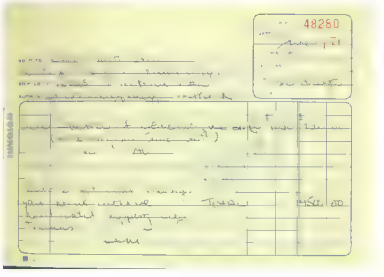


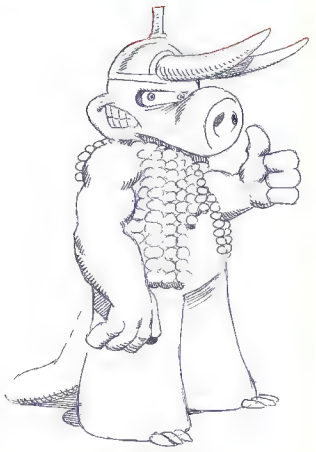



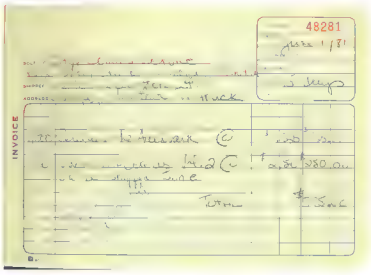



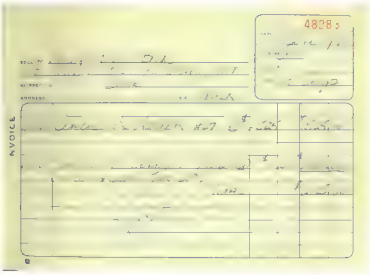



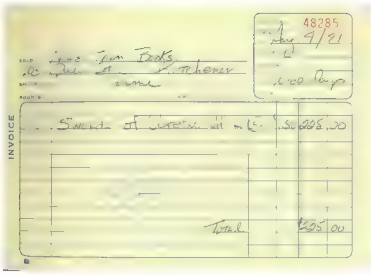


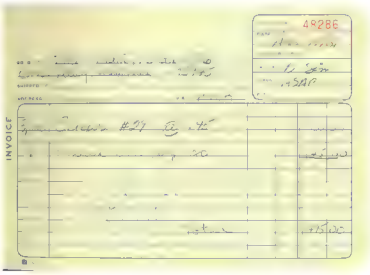


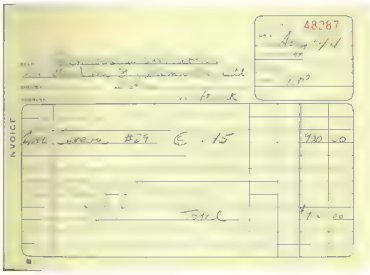
Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

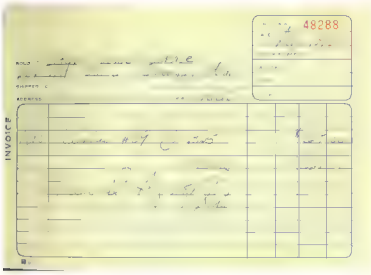


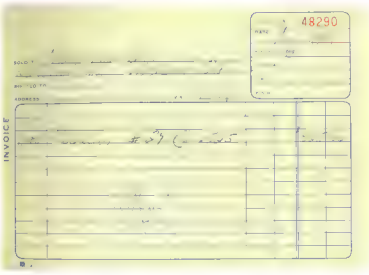


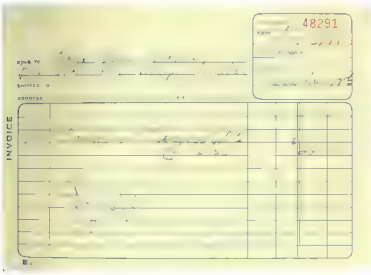


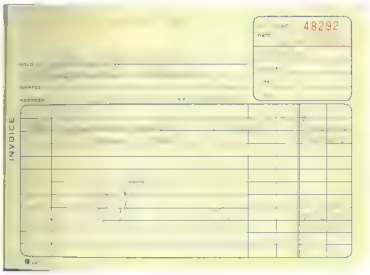



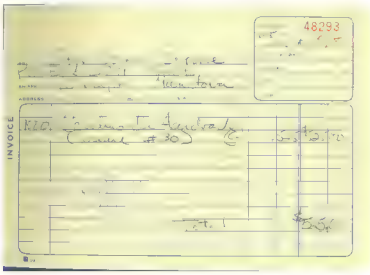



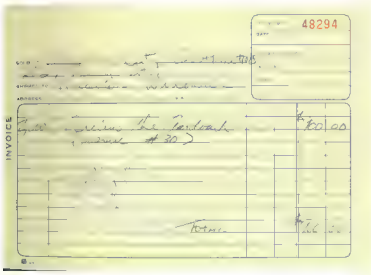



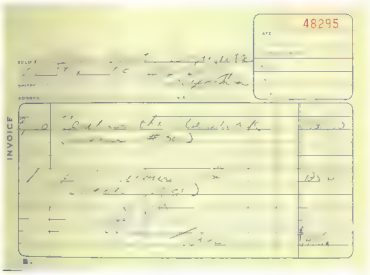


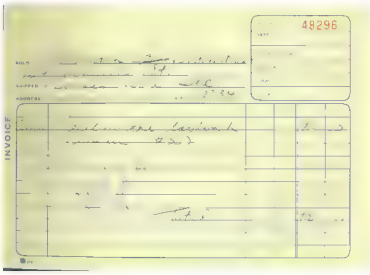



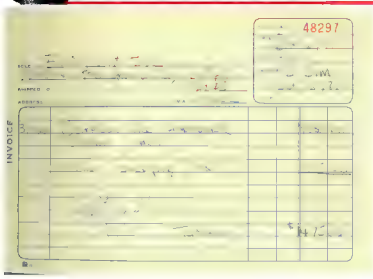



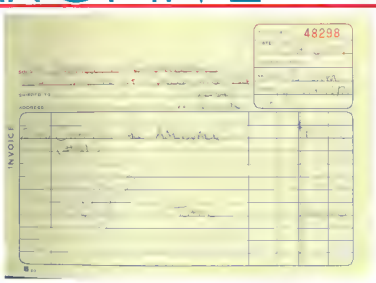



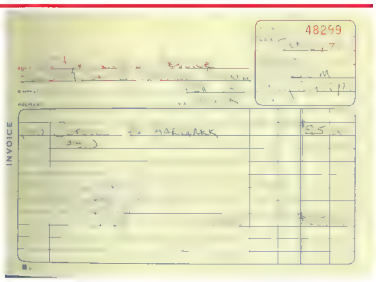



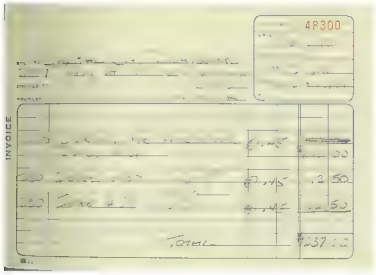



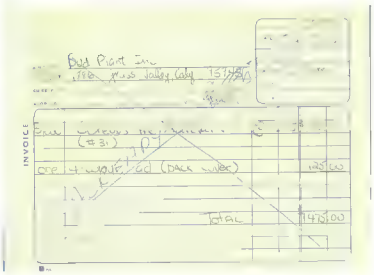



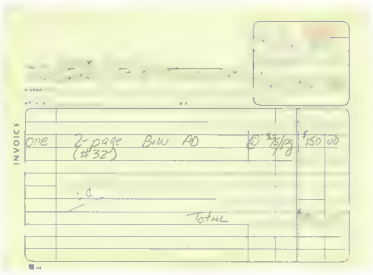


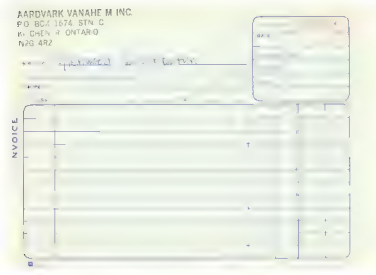



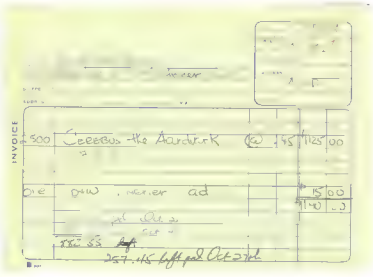



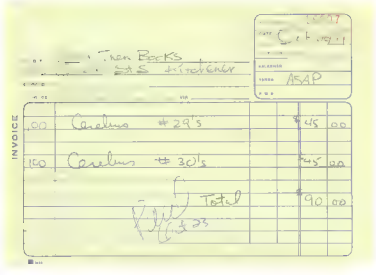



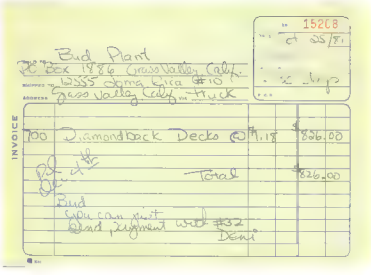



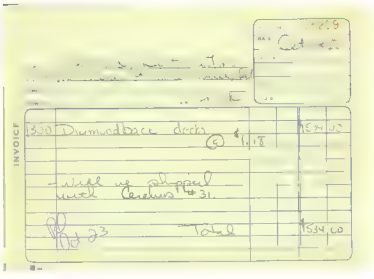



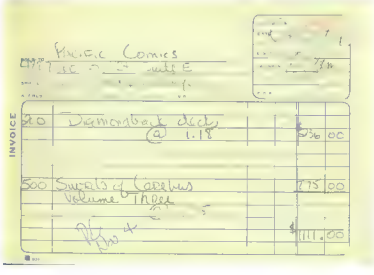
Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

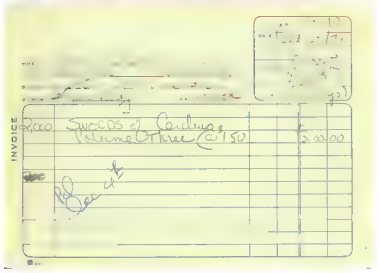


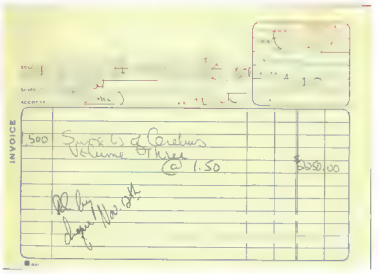


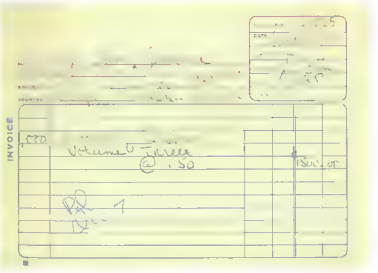



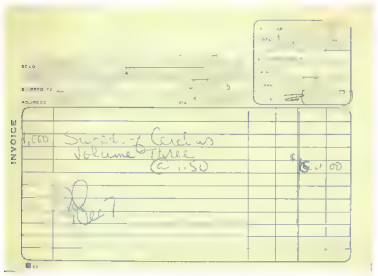



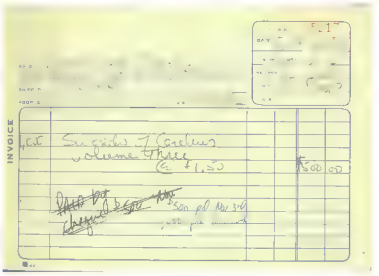


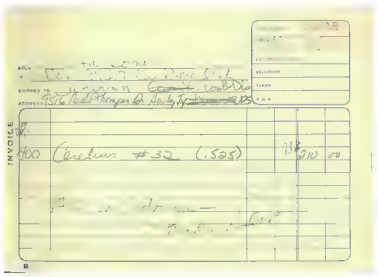


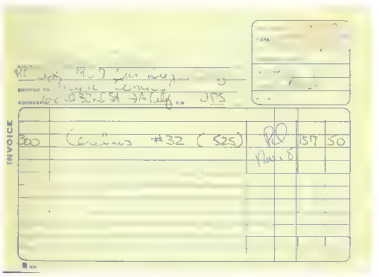



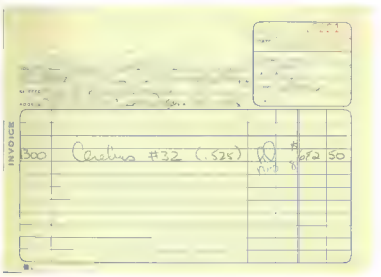



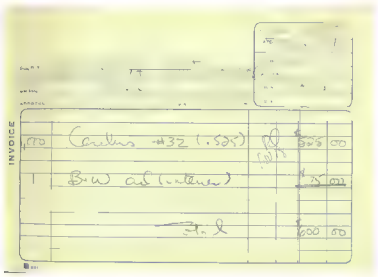



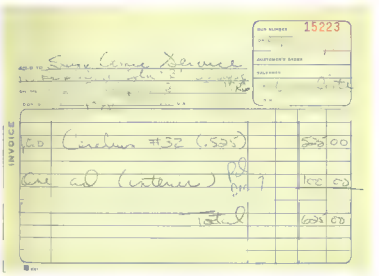



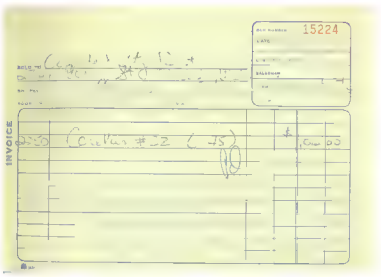


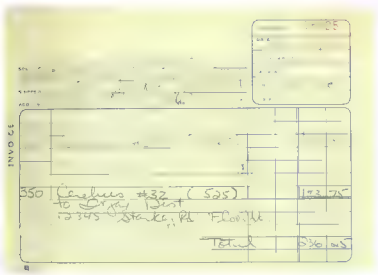



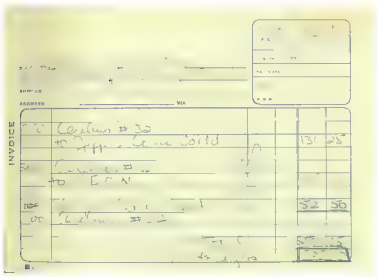



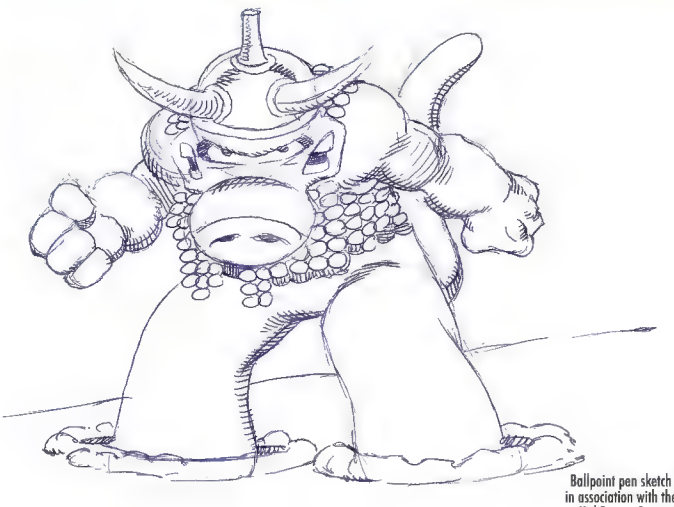



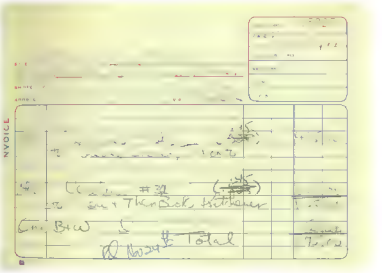



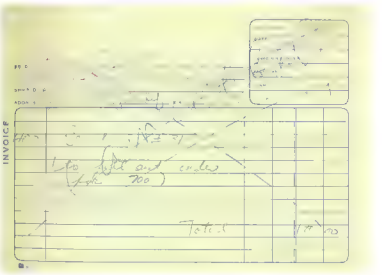



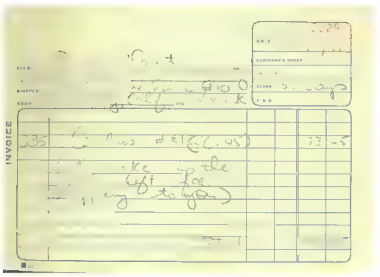



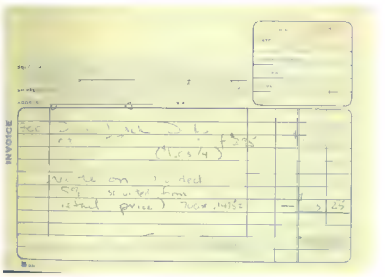
Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

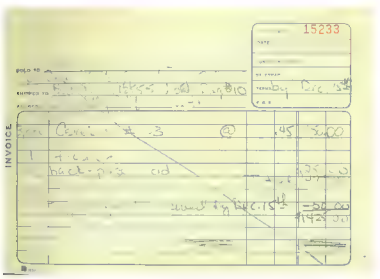
Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

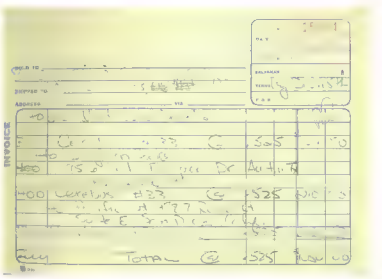


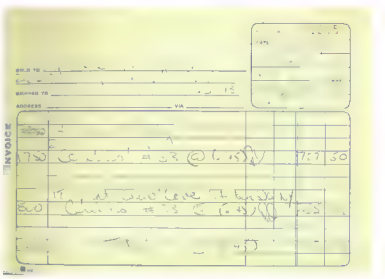


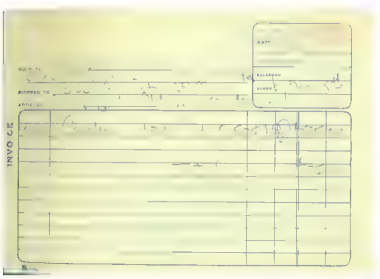


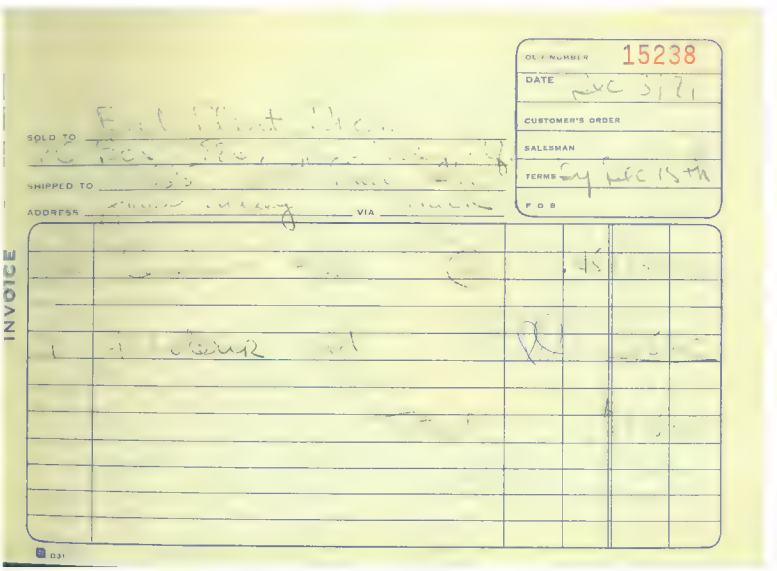


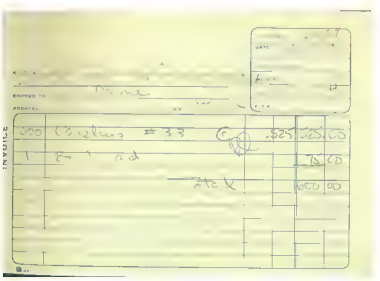










Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

"I'm not sure what I was writing this for. The reference to Southern Dutchess News – the same printer that was doing ELFQUEST - - narrows it down to the three pre-HIGH SOCIETY issues since No.26 was the first issue printed by Preney Print & Litho."
- Dave Sim

"I wrote the issue in two days at MAPLECON in Ottawa. There were only three channels on the hotel TV's -- the House of Commons in French, the House of Commons in English and a lousy movie. 'They saved Hitler's Brain' I think it was. It was a case of either write the next issue or watch my fingernails grow."

"Three people die in the story, which is the most violence I've used in a long time. I tried to avoid ~~having~~ really graphic death scenes though -- they tend to break the rhythm of the ha-ha"

"I set the schedule for SWORDS OF CEREBUS and then noticed that it was the same as ELFQUEST's -- JANUARY MAY and SEPTEMBER. Since we're now using the same printer as ELFQUEST for the guts of our books, I can tell you what his three busiest months are likely to be"

"I talked to JOE RUBINSTEIN in Ottawa at a convention about inking a CEREBUS story for SWORDS -- probably for ~~#~~ VOLUME THREE. I'd also love to have FRANK MILLER pencil one"

"VOLUME TWO is likely to contain a ten-page CEREBUS story "MAGIKING" that was supposed to be printed elsewhere and wasn't. After that I'll be back to working with other comics professionals. JOE RUBINSTEIN has already expressed an interest in inking one"

Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

"I started the comic over and realized it was full of women - girls!! Girls are something have great difficulty in drawing. I thought about having them all wear black hoods with little eye-slits, but it would have made character identification difficult."

"Kind of a jarring pre-Cirinist depiction reference to black hoods and eye slits. From the description, I'm guessing this is in reference to No.23's "The Beguiling". Which is where the name of the Toronto comic shop came from although I doubt they'd admit to it these days."
- Dave Sim

Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

"A bill from Southern Dutchess News. Should give you an idea of how profitable the Direct Market was at that time."
- Dave Sim

WAPPINGERS FALLS SHOPPER INC
PUBLISHERS OF:
SOUTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS
BEACON FREE PRESS
SPACKENKILL SENTINEL

84 EAST MAIN STREET
WAPPINGERS FALLS, NEW YORK 12590
PHONE 914 297-3723

February 25, 1981
Aardvark-Vanaheim

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| January 16, 1981: | No. 23/1 "The Beguiling" | | $ 912.50 |
| | Shipping Charges | | 197.66 |
| | Return of "Diamondback" (Priority Mail) | | 15.00 |
| | | | $1,125.16 |
| January 23, 1981: | "Swords" | | $1,303.00 |
| | Shipping Charges | | 137.82 |
| | Folding of Cerebus Covers | | 70.00 |
| | | | $1,520.82 |
| | | TOTAL | $2,645.98 |
| | PAID $1,000.00 February 24, 1981 | Balance | $1,645.98 |

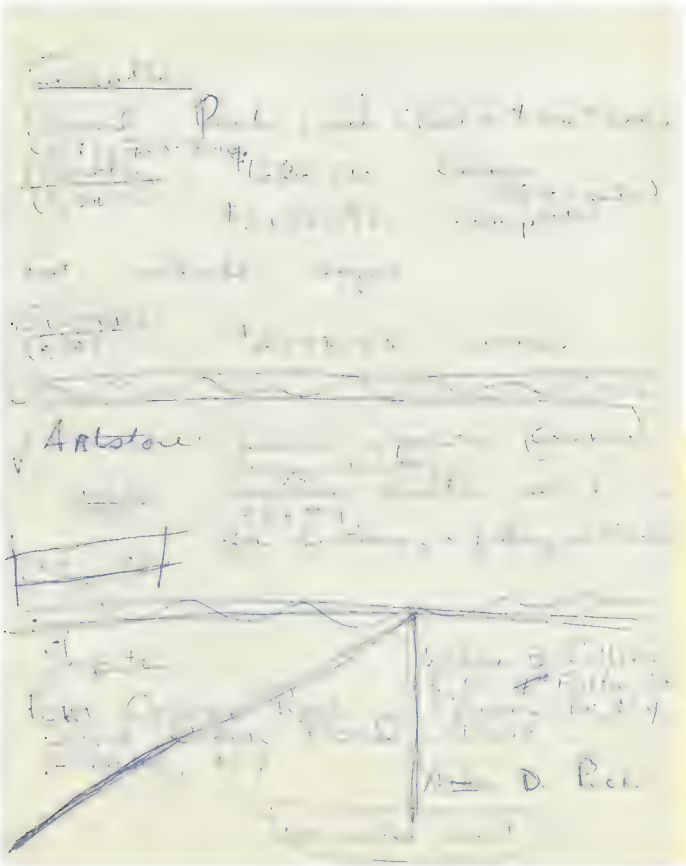
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

ESTIMATED CHARGES for No. 24 "Swamp Sounds" (The Beguiling, Part 2)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 24 pages, 12,200 copies | | $ 861.50 |
| Composition | | 51.00 |
| Shipping Charges | | 197.66 |
| | Total | $1,110.16 |

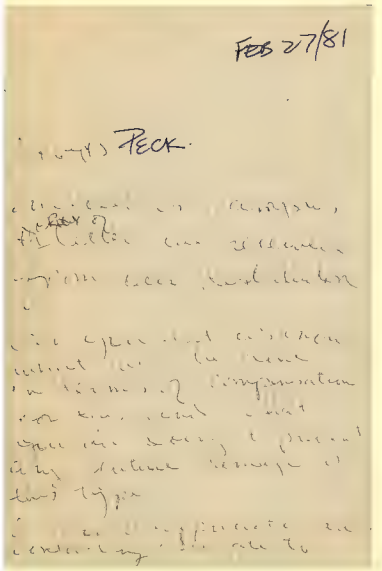
2756.14
224.68

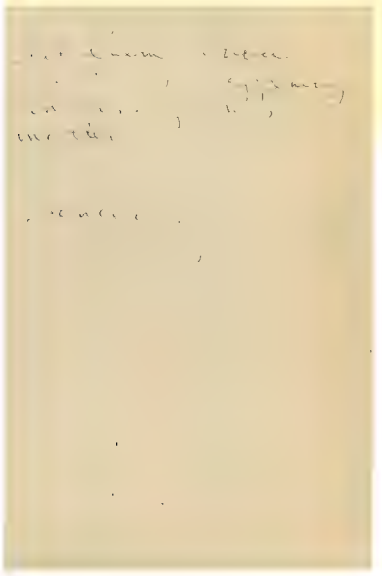
Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.




"Deni's handwritten notes on getting quotes from other printers. We really weren't getting along with Southern Dutchess News – the washed out greens on the cover of No.25 were the last straw. This is Gerhard's first appearance in the Archive (misspelled as "Gerhart") where I've given her a list of things I needed from the Artstore in Waterloo where he was working at the time. Apt. 1401 was his favourite place to deliver supplies because I used to tip him with a joint or two."
- Dave Sim

"Deni's rough draft of a letter to David Peck of Southern Dutchess News. We had gotten damaged copies from Phil Seuling's SeaGate Distributors and wanted some kind of compensation – which wasn't forthcoming. You have to learn that it's all part of the cost of doing business. You replace damaged books and eat the cost."
- Dave Sim





FEB 27/81

DAVID PECK

Enclosed is samples of letter we received from our distributor.

Can you let us know what will be done in terms of compensation for this and what you are doing to prevent any future damage of this type.

I would appreciate you contacting Sea Gate to let them know what is happening concerning this matter.

Sincerely

"Like I say, we just weren't getting along. Probably had a lot to do with the fact that ELFQUEST came out three times a year and sold something like 60,000 copies while CEREBUS came out monthly and sold barely enough copies to keep from being really aggravating for a good-sized printer."

- Dave Sim

WAPPINGERS FALLS SHOPPER INC.
PUBLISHERS OF:
SOUTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS
BEACON FREE PRESS
SPACKENKILL SENTINEL

84 EAST MAIN STREET
WAPPINGERS FALLS, NEW YORK 12590
PHONE 914 297-3723

February 25, 1981

Aardvark Vanaheim
221 Queen St. South
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G1W5

Attn: Denise Sim

Dear Denise:

Upon reviewing our original agreement, we find that we were to receive payment for each job as it was shipped. At this time, we have not received payment for all of the work that we have done.

Although we had originally planned to ship No. 24 upon receipt of the $1,000. transfer, the length of time for the $1,000. to arrive was much longer than anticipated. If we ship No. 24, we find ourselves with an equally large debt and very little to encourage you to make payment.

We must, therefore, withhold shipment of No. 24 until all previous bills are paid and No. 24 is paid for. A copy of your statement is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Al Osten

Al Osten
Vice President

AO/mb
Enc.

"We were also finding out how much fun doing business across the border could be – which is why we started looking for Canadian printers."

- Dave Sim

Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

"Form letter from Mike Friedrich who had given me my first big break in 'Groundlevel comics' (as we were then called) in QUACK! A short story I had written, drawn by Fabio Gasbarri, called 'I'm God' had made Mike's short list of GREATEST HITS which was very flattering."
- Dave Sim

19 January 1981

Dear Contributors, Dave —

Well, this is it. Except for those of you who are appearing in STAR*REACH GREATEST HITS, this is the last royalty/sales statement you'll be getting from me. Throughout 1980 I "remaindered" all of the comics inventory. Most of it was sold at 10¢ apeece, though some at higher prices (a weighted average of about 12¢ apiece).

Since I never anticipated this contingency when we signed our contracts, the way I figured the royalties was to take 25% of my income and declare that the royalty (the 10% of cover price royalty that we agreed to was that percentage of the amount I collected--i.e., 40% of cover price--when things operated on a regular basis). Naturally, if you have any questions as to how any of the $ figures were arrived at on the statement, let me know.

Those of you in the GREATEST HITS book will continue to receive annual statements until it's sold out; I'll also report any foreign sales.

I want to thank all of you for your contributions, large and small. I'm very aware of the financial sacrifices you made in working for me and I appreciate them. Your efforts have wedged open a small but growing market for alternative, independent comics in which the creators participate in the rewards (and risk) all the way down the line, as well as retaining more creative control over their work. The effects of your efforts continue to ripple throughout the field and are even now beginning to affect the major publishers.

I think it was worth it. And someday I'll be back. I hope you'll still be there.

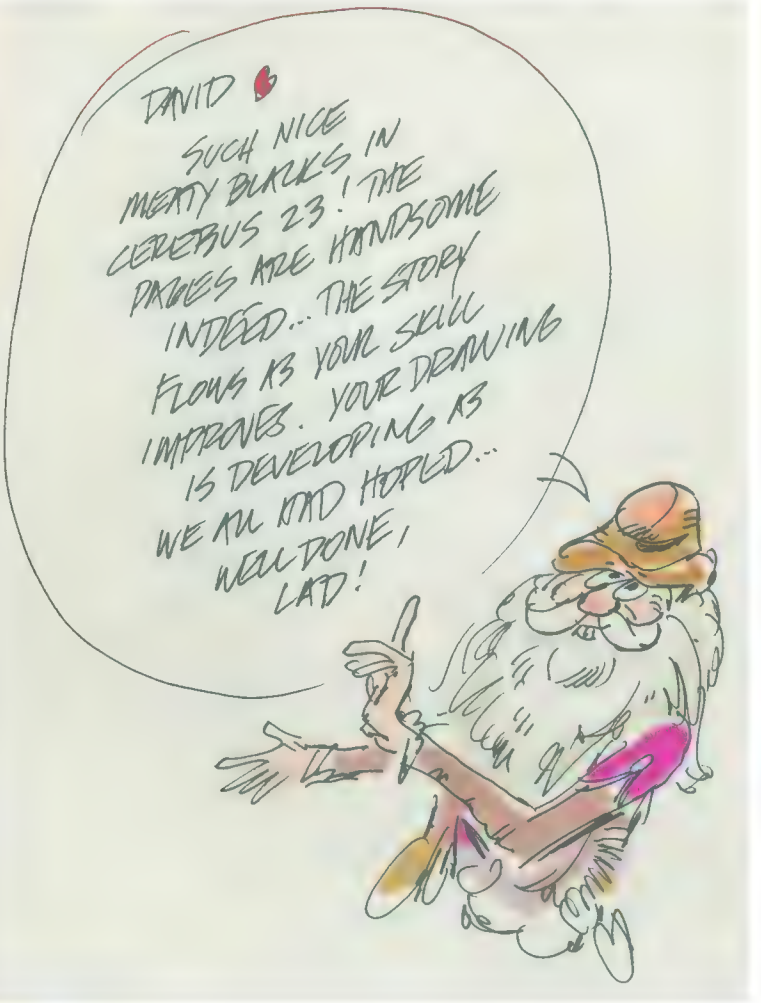
Best wishes,

Mike

Your royalties subtracted from the bill for the comics you bought in 6/79, as agreed. There's about $25 outstanding.
MF

"Colour cartoon/note from Frank Thorne. I don't know where he found the time to do these. He set a very high standard for the professional/wannabe relationship, always encouraging me and others, a standard I've always tried to live up to."

- Dave Sim

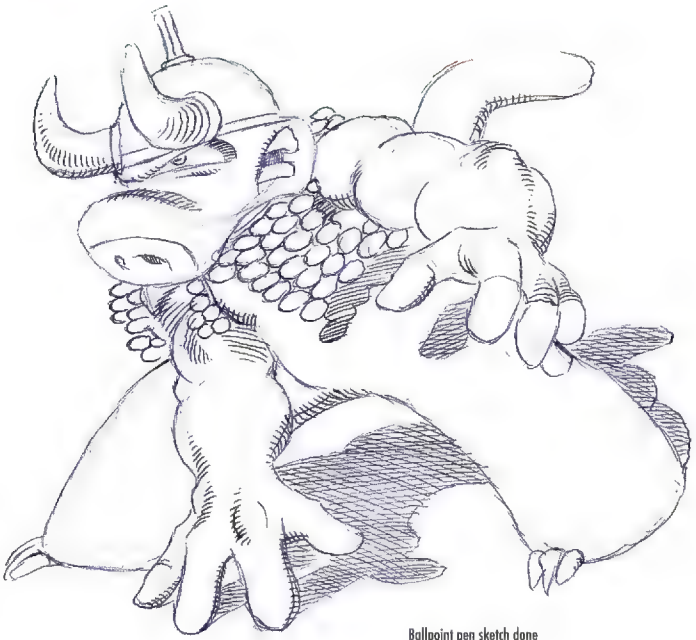

DAVID
SUCH NICE MEATY BLACKS IN CEREBUS 23! THE PAGES ARE HANDSOME INDEED... THE STORY FLOWS AS YOUR SKILL IMPROVES. YOUR DRAWING IS DEVELOPING AS WE ALL HOPED... WELL DONE, LAD!

"Unused Cerebus button design that didn't make it to the lettering stage."

- Dave Sim

"Unbound cover for SWORDS OF CEREBUS volume one, which reprinted four issues of CEREBUS at a time and ran for six volumes. Done with a combination of markers and pencil crayons."

- Dave Sim



Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

"Letter from Bud Plant who was a sub-distributor for Phil Seuling on CEREBUS and is a notable purveyor of fine art books to this very day."
- Dave Sim

Bud Plant Inc.

26 February 1981

Aardvark Vanheim Press
48 Weber St. E.
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2H 1C5

Dear Dave & Denise,

I think you may be cutting your own throat with the price change to $1.50. I've already gotten customer resistence to this, complaining that the vast majority of other alternative comics are still $1.25 for more pages, usually 32 to 40 rather than 24. Dave explained that printing costs have gone up. But that does not explain why everyone else can produce comics for less than yours, sometimes with smaller press runs (usually 10,000).

The hardest thing for me to understand is that you raised your print run due to Pacific's and my larger orders. This would lower your cost per book.

No matter how much you want or need to make out of a book, you have to realize that at a certain point people will start resisting Cerebus due to the price. $1.25 for 24 pages was a bit high but since most other comics were the same price, most people would not complain. But when you are charging more money for less pages than any other book...that's not being competitive. And you have to be competitive with the number of books on the stands.

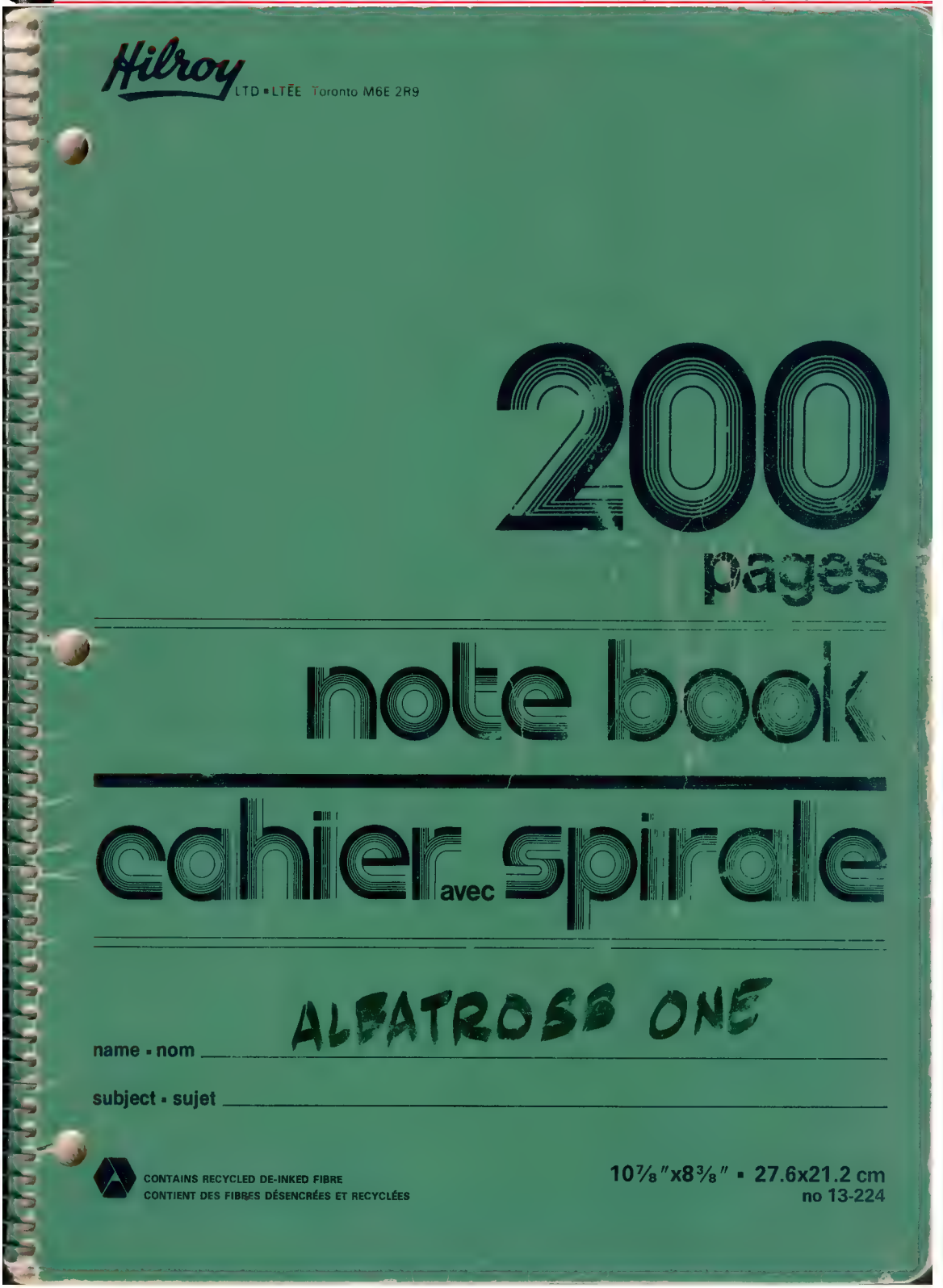
All of the above is based on my experience as a dealer. On a strictly personal basis, I still feel screwed because I was never contacted about the change. Neither was Bill Shanes. We both made deals that put us out on limbs in order to take more copies based on the book as it was. We deserved to at least be informed of the change. 'Nuff said; please consider this in the future if any other changes come down. That we can work for you, you have to work with us.

A second point that I'd like to mention in concerning the SWORDS OF CEREBUS. I'm happy to report that it is selling well so far. Most of these sales were solicited in advance of publication. I started with 1000 from Phil and have reordered another 300 already. But I think you really short-changed your fans with the cover of this. I thought the coloring was mediocre and the title logo was almost an afterthought, still showing paste-up lines and imperfections from freehand drawing. I don't think this had near the quality that most people expected; with just a little more effort you could have had a 100% great package.

Bud

# CEREBUS ARCHIVE NOTEBOOKS

"Albatross One"



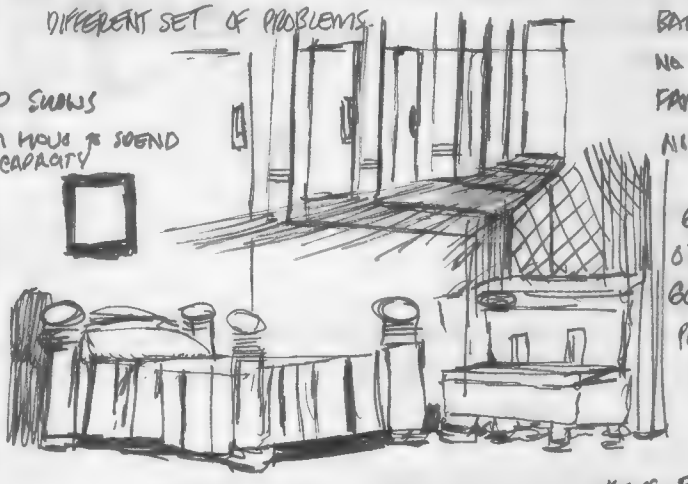

I began using notebooks to plot CEREBUS beginning with issue 20. I called the notebook my "albatross" since it was always with me, a constant reminder of work I had to do. Plotting for HIGH SOCIETY began on page 135 of the 200-page "Albatross One" (although much plotting of the various political factions takes place on the earlier pages and on – now long gone – scraps of paper).

CEREBUS #26 (MARCH, 1981) "HIGH SOCIETY"

PAGE ① CEREBUS & GETTING PROGRESS FROM SALE OF ARTIST'S STUFF
PAPER MONEY AND HIS REACTION TO IT.
3 pn. PAG ②
LAST THREE PANELS PAGE ③ THERE IS ANOTHER LAND OUT THERE

FASHIONABLE LEAVING FOR NEW WORLD THESE DAYS
BACK TO. LEST LOTS OF STUFF GOING ON...
NICER ROOM THAN HE'S BEEN USED TO.
MIDDLE CLASS -- AARDVARKIAN AGE "HOLIDAY INN"
DIFFERENT SET OF PROBLEMS.

KIND SHOWS
WITH HOW IT SOUND
TO CAPACITY



BATH BEFORE DINNER
NO WATER IS TURN
FOR AWAY..
NO, SIRREE -- IN YOUR
ROOM

GUEST: CHURCH
OF THEM IS
GOING TO BE
PUBLISHING ONE OF
MY TREATISE

HIS BEHIND...

JUST DECIDING TO CRAWL INTO BED
KNOCK! KNOCK!
DAMN CUTTHROATS
eh? COME IN TO GIVE YOU HOT WATER
WHAT FOR? WISH TO WASH .. BOT OF RUM
READ: HOT WATER -- HOW FAR YOU
MORE HOT WATER: THIS IS HOW YOU SPEND
MONEY.

HSANB 1/26 - Original idea was to do an "Aardvarkian Age" Holiday Inn, a middle class hotel. Then I thought that having a bath in your room would be a distinctly "upper class" thing at the time.

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE MY SAYING SO, SIR/MA'AM.. I COULD TELL YOU WE'RE PRETTY WELL FIXED TIMES aren't as good as they used to be --
GOVERNMENT OF LEST has started printing notes now that a GOLD piece is worth more three gold pieces

IF YOU WAS TO HAVE A FEW TITLE or SOMETHING ever been PRESIDENT of A GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE or owned some land
CEREBUS who KITCHEN STAFF SUPERVISOR
CEREBUS? You're ~~that~~ CEREBUS?!
Aye what of..

SMART-ASS KID
BUT HE KNOWS
WHAT'S GOING
DOWN

~~OVER~~ CLEAR
A BANKER FALLING
~~FROM~~ OUT OF ~~BEFORE~~
FROM

HOTEL BUSINESSMEN, MERCHANTS, BANKERS, TRADERS, POLITICIANS, BUREAUCRATS

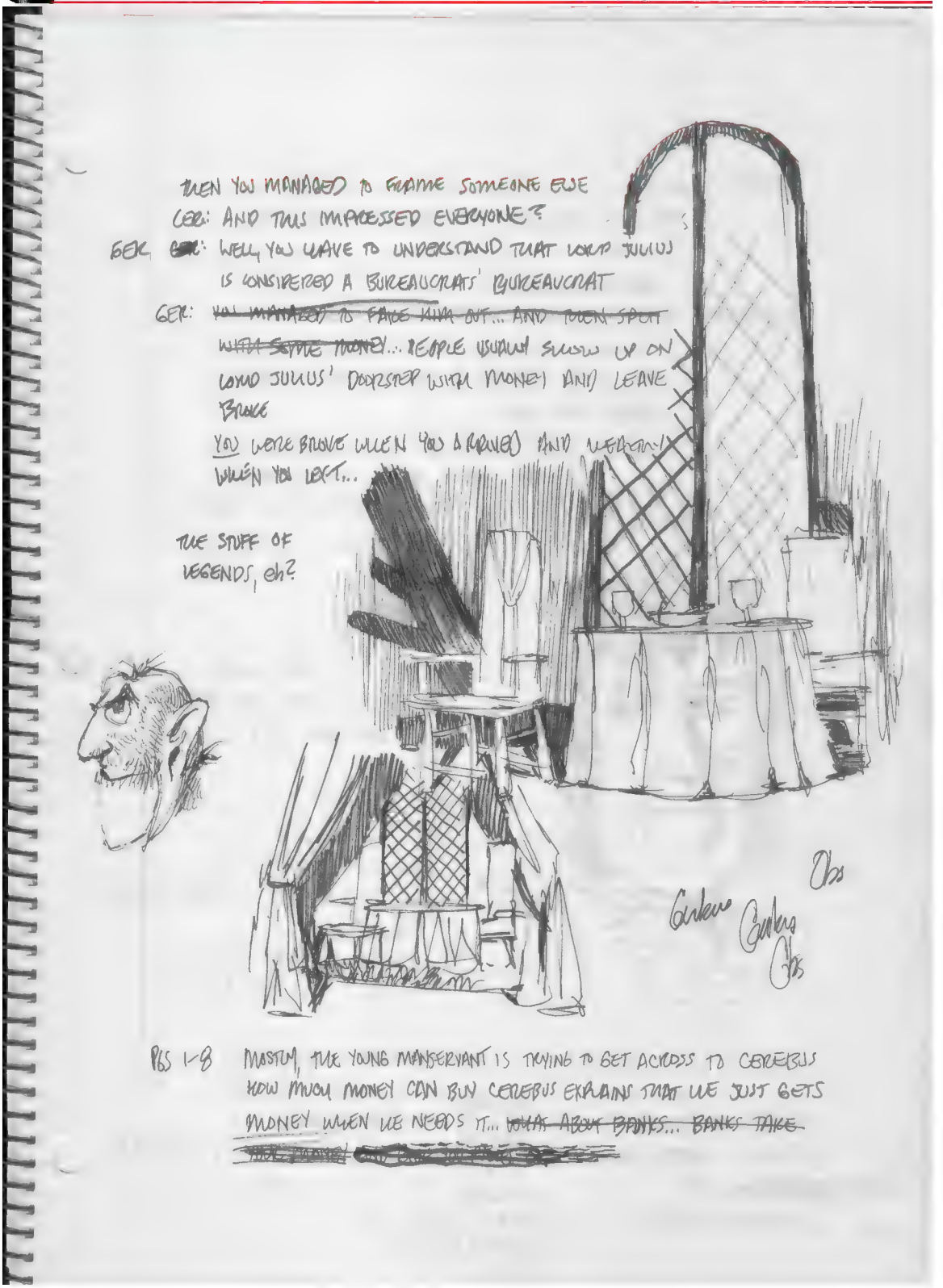
THIS IS CEREBUS THE ARDVARK.. YOU REMEMBER SIR

TAKES HIM DOWN TO DINNER
YOU WAIT HERE...

BUT CEREBUS DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING

GUY WHO GOT POISONED IN #16 WAS A rival for CEREBUS' position at LORD JULIUS' side everyone is amazed that CEREBUS wouldn't eat everything on the fact that he was going to eat before anyone else..

HSANB 2/26 - Manservant in the original plotline ("smart ass kid but he knows what's going down") who later became the desk clerk of the "Holiday Inn" in issue 27. Plot problem: "businessmen, merchants, bankers, traders" would stay there, but not "politicians and bureaucrats" which were needed to drive the plot forward.


THEN YOU MANAGED TO FRAME SOMEONE ELSE
CEB: AND THUS IMPRESSED EVERYONE?
GEK: WELL, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT LORD JULIUS IS CONSIDERED A BUREAUCRATS' BUREAUCRAT
GEK: ~~YOU MANAGED TO FRAME HIM OUT... AND THEN SPENT WITH SOME MONEY~~... PEOPLE USUALLY SHOW UP ON LORD JULIUS' DOORSTEP WITH MONEY AND LEAVE BRUCE
YOU WERE BRAVE WHEN YOU ARRIVED AND WEAKLY WHEN YOU LEFT...
THE STUFF OF LEGENDS, eh?
PGS 1-8 MASTER, THE YOUNG MANSERVANT IS TRYING TO GET ACROSS TO CEREBUS HOW MUCH MONEY CAN BUY CEREBUS EXPLAINS THAT HE JUST GETS MONEY WHEN HE NEEDS IT... ~~WHAT ABOUT BANKS... BANKS TAKE~~

HSANB 3/26 - Sample exchange of dialogue on WHY Cerebus is seen as a key figure. I decided to skip that and leave it a bit of mystery. There was no reason anyone would discuss it with him except in terms of their personal experience (Skorz of Skorz, Skorz & Sons).

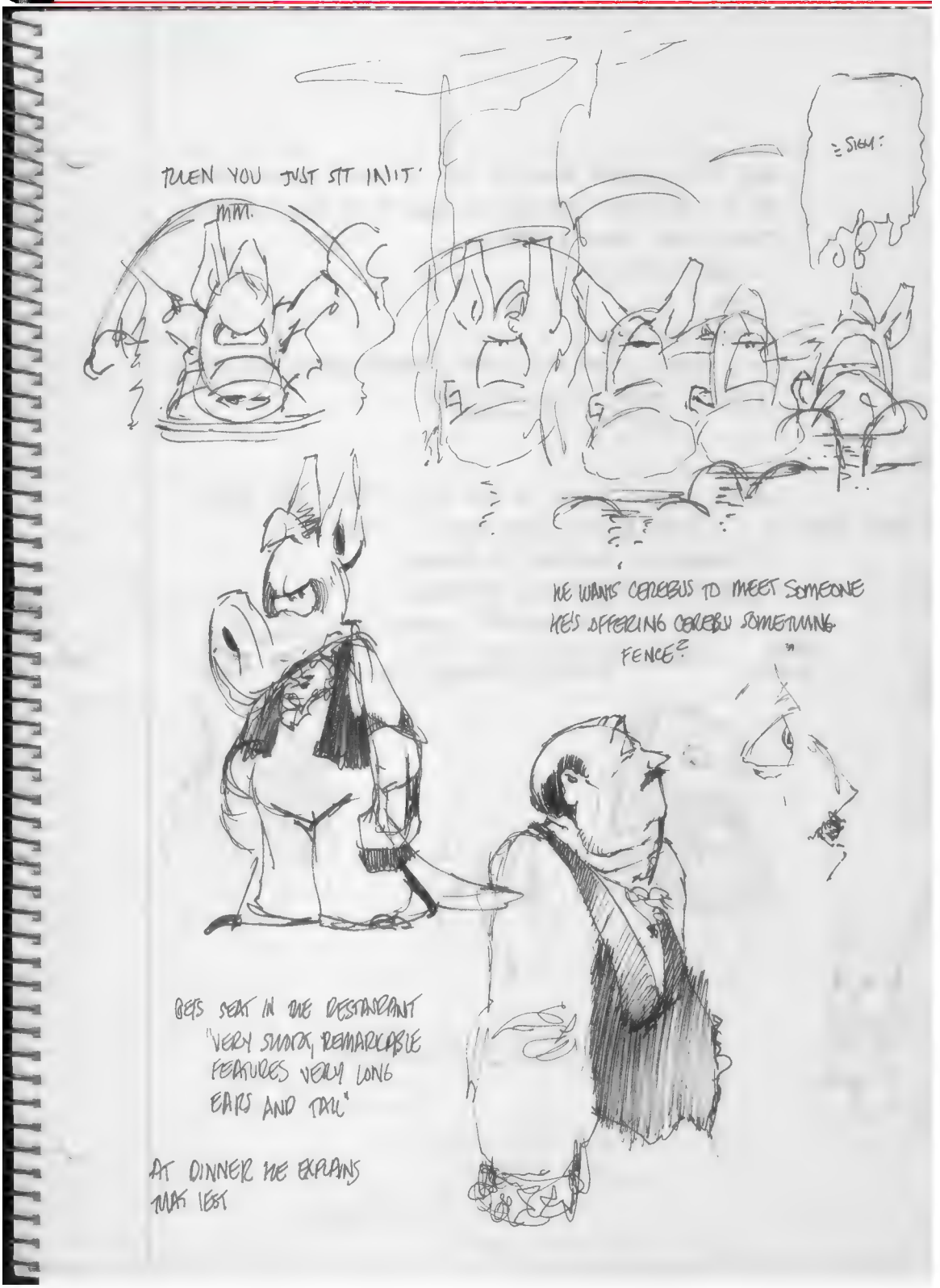
CEREBUS PRACTICALLY RAN PALNU DURING CRISIS
YOUR STYLE - THE EASE WITH WHICH YOU WIELDED POWER
"MOST... ILLUMINATING"
MANSERVANT. TRIES TO RIP HIM OFF GOING UP TO THE ROOM
"PLEASE, SIRRAH -- DON' TURN ME IN TO
NO I JUST WANTED TO KNOW WHERE YOU FENCE YOUR STUFF
"~~WOTA~~ WHAT?"
OH, YEAH -- WELL SEE I DON' ACTUALLY ~~F~~K KNOW THE GUY, SEE? HE JUST SORT OF IS AROUN', Y'KNOW...
FORGET IT

MANSERVANT: DON'T WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF ME LIFE ~~HERE~~ DOWN THE HILL, DO I, SIR -- NO SIR.
YOU SURE TALK A LOT, LORD
VERY SORRY, SIR
THIS IS YOUR ROOM, SIR.. WOULD YOU LIKE ~~SEE~~ TO TO BATH BEFORE DINNER.
NO IT'S TOO COLD AND THE RIVER'S TOO FAR AWAY.
(SIGH)
SOMETHING WRONG?
I MEANT HERE, SIR
IN YOUR ROOM
WHY? IS THE RIVER FLOODING?
NO SIR -- IN THIS TUB, LIKE

CEREBUS WAS NEVER ~~SURE~~ HEARD OF ANYTHING ~~BEFORE~~ ~~CONCEIVABLE~~ HELL
QUITE THIS BEFORE

SEVERAL MINUTES OF MISUNDERSTANDING LATER...

HSANB 4/26 - More plotting of the "Holiday Inn" hotel "down the hill" ("Don't want to spend the rest of me life 'down the hill', do I, sir – no sir."). It was a variation of the Hamilton, Ontario reference to Hamilton locations on the top of the Niagara Escarpment as "up the mountain" and those below the Escarpment as "down the mountain".




HSANB 5/26 - Cerebus easing into his bath. Too slow a moment when I'm trying to get things going. The snobbish desk clerk begins to take shape. Cerebus in his "hotel appropriate" garb. This is mostly what the plotting consisted of, doing things wrong so I would know how to do them right.

GUY GIVES CEREBUS MONEY TO TALK TO LORD JULIUS AND PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR HIM. I WANT YOU TO SAY JUST ONE WORD TO HIM "INDOOR PLUMBING"

"INDOOR PLUMBING"?

YES PA

THAT'S TWO WORDS.

IT IS INDEED... TALKING ABOUT INDOOR PLUMBING DESCRIBING IT IN DETAIL "CEREBUS MISSED SOMETHING. WASN'T THERE SUPPOSED

CEREBUS IS ONLY STAYING IN THIS HOTEL FOR ONE NIGHT PAPER MONEY IF IT WASN'T RAINING WE'D SLEEP IN A TREE TOO EXPENSIVE COUNTING HIS MONEY.

CEREBUS' EXTRAORDINARY FEATURES

BUT I ALREADY KNOW

LONG EARS PRONOUNCED LOWER JAW FLARING NOSTRILS. LARGE EYES SHORT BUT ABUNDANT HAIR

BEG PARDON, SIR BUT YOU'RE NOT BY CHANCE THE CEREBUS?

THE CEREBUS?

LORD JULIUS' KITCHEN STAFF SUPERVISOR...

AYE. CEREBUS IS THAT CEREBUS...

HSANB 6/26 - Scorz "talk at Lord Julius, SEWAGE, SEWAGE, SEWAGE" began as "indoor plumbing". I was always trying to work how people envisioned Cerebus from the description: "Long ears, pronounced lower jaw, flaring nostrils, large eyes, short but abundant hair" and then having them picture someone who looked like this. Again, it was too slow for getting things rolling. It wasn't until CHURCH & STATE that I finally devoted a couple of pages to it.

CEREBUS IS GOING TO NEED SOME MONEY.

~~TO THE HOUSE OF ANT DIAMOND BACK GUARD~~

YOU'VE BEEN TO JEST BEFORE? WHERE DID YOU STAY

WELL IT'S JUST THAT LORD JULIUS' PREVIOUS KITCHEN STAFF SUPERVISORS HAVE ~~BEEN~~

AH BEEN -- WELL, UPPER CLASS -- WAR HEROES, ~~BEEN~~ RETIRED MUSH SUCH CAPTAINS AND SUCH

CEREBUS SAVED LORD JULIUS' KID

ONCE

IT WAS SORT OF A FAVOUR

MAY I ASK YOU A PERSONAL QUESTION

MAN.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT LORD JULIUS TAKING CREDIT FOR YOUR DEFEAT OF THE EYE IN THE PYRAMID CONSPIRACY IN PALNU?

IT WAS?

OH AYE -- HE'S TOLD EVERYONE THAT IT WAS HIS DOING RIGHT DOWN TO THE DEFEAT OF THE CULT LEADER

THEN WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT WASN'T?

~~BLACKED~~ CEREBUS THREW A ROCK AND HIT HIM ON THE HEAD WHILE HE WAS BABBLING ABOUT HIS REVOLUTION

EVERYONE THINKS IT WAS A HEROIC FIGHT.

~~CEREBUS IS NOT TOTALLY [illegible] FOR THE PALNU~~

THE ~~[illegible]~~ CEREBUS HAS HEARD OF YOUR ~~[illegible]~~ REPUTATION IN THE FIELD OF URBAN PLANNING. AS PALNU IS PRESENTLY FACING AN OVERPOPULATION PROBLEM IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY

3 guys shown to CEREBUS 1 page each passionate loves his work pollyannic – if steps are not taken the urination of the city stinks at PALNU is just around the corner no one else must touch it

HSANB 7/26 - More sample dialogue that was going nowhere except "over-feeding" the continuity junkies. Finally at the bottom of the page, I distill the problem: "3 guys shown to Cerebus, 1 page each, passionate, loves his work."

such-hide of course, if the plans do not meet with approval

CEREBUS getting progressively drunker

"THE KIDNAPPING OF AN AARDVARK"

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | PAPER MONEY! HAVE SOMEONE TAKE YOUR BAGS | 11 | KIDNAPPER OVERHEARS |
| 2 | CEREBUS THE CEREBUS EXPRESS, WE HAVEA YES SIR | 12 | KI |
| 3 | [illegible] | 13 | |
| 4 | | 14 | |
| 5 | | 15 | IEST IS IN NEED OF MARKETS |
| 6 | | 16 | FOR THE STUFF IT PRODUCES |
| 7 | | 17 | WE ALL KNOW ABOUT THE PEAK |
| 8 | | 18 | CARTA WEALTH IN PALNU. |
| 9 | [illegible] | 19 | |
| 10 | | 20 | VERY ATTRACTIVE FOR AN EXPANDING CIM SUCH AS OURS |

OH YES/SIR QUITE "LEAVE US EMPLOY" YOU CAN RELY ON ME, SIR

GUYS WHO GRAB CEREBUS THINK THEY'RE JUST KIDNAPPING A BUREAUCRAT.

NOT A WORD

IT SHALL BE OUR SECRET

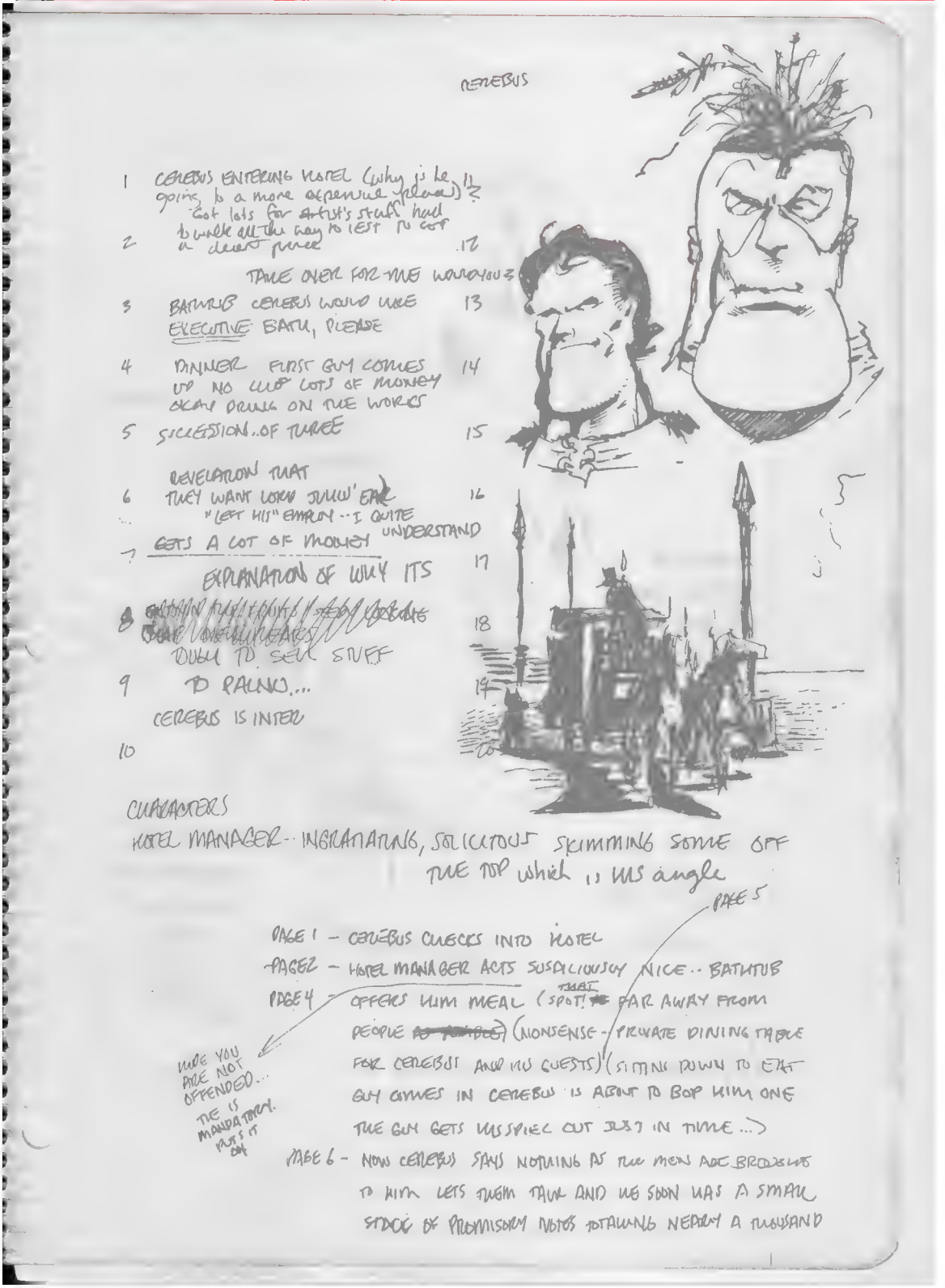
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE WHO WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE COME TO IEST.

CEREBUS 6 DEADLY SINS

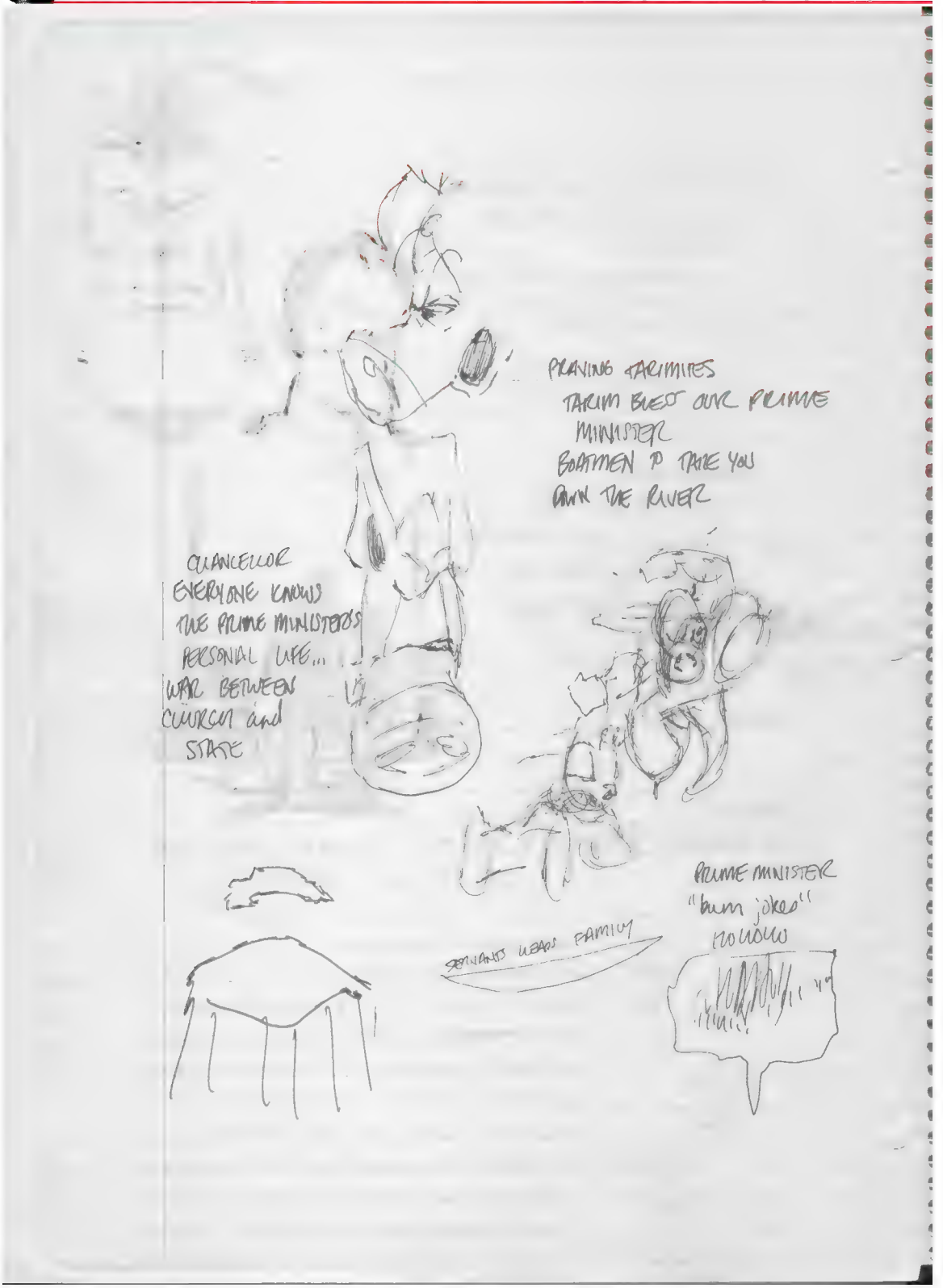
SLOTH, GLUTTONY, AVARICE, ~~LUST~~, ANGER, PRIDE. ENVY

KIDNAP MMM "WHEN LET THEM GUM NEGOTIATE. ONLY SEND RANSOM DEMAND TO LORD JULIUS..."

HSANB 8/26 - "Road map" of all 20 pages while I roughed in the intro pages to the Hadden M. Hadden, Ned Greeley and Skorz pages. I wanted to bring the unnamed kidnapper in on page 11. Then realized that that would be moving too fast and moved the kidnapping up 10 pages to No.27. First idea for the SIX DEADLY SINS PORTFOLIO: make it 6 instead of 7.


CEREBUS
1 CEREBUS ENTERING HOTEL (Why is he going to a more expensive place?)
Got lots for artist's stuff had to walk all the way to LEST to get a decent price
2
TAKE OVER FOR THE WAREHOUSE
3 BATHTUB CEREBUS WOULD LIKE EXECUTIVE BATH, PLEASE
4 DINNER FIRST GUY COMES UP NO CLUE LOTS OF MONEY OKAY DRINK ON THE WORKS
5 SUCCESSION..OF THREE
6 REVELATION THAT THEY WANT LORN JULIA' EAR "LEFT HIS" EMPLOY -- I QUITE UNDERSTAND
7 GETS A LOT OF MONEY
EXPLANATION OF WHY ITS
8
DULL TO SELL STUFF
9 TO PALNO...
CEREBUS IS INTED
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
CHARACTERS
HOTEL MANAGER -- INSINUATING, SOLICITOUS SKIMMING SOME OFF THE TOP which is his angle
PAGE 1 - CEREBUS CHECKS INTO HOTEL
PAGE 2 - HOTEL MANAGER ACTS SUSPICIOUSLY NICE.. BATHTUB
PAGE 4 - OFFERS HIM MEAL (SPOT! THAT FAR AWAY FROM PEOPLE) (NONSENSE - PRIVATE DINING THERE FOR CEREBUS AND HIS GUESTS) (SITTING DOWN TO EAT GUY COMES IN CEREBUS IS ABOUT TO BOP HIM ONE THE GUY GETS HUSPIECE OUT JUST IN TIME...)
PAGE 5
MAKE YOU PAGE NOT OFFENDED... THE IS MANDATORY. PUTS IT OUT
PAGE 6 - NOW CEREBUS SAYS NOTHING AS THE MEN ARE BRINGING TO HIM LETS THEM TALK AND HE SOON HAS A SMALL STACK OF PROMISSORY NOTES TOTALING NEARLY A THOUSAND

HSANB 9/26 - Some obvious questions: "Why is he going to a more expensive place?" for which there was no answer, so I just avoided it - which allowed me to plot up through page 9 (which would usually get compacted from there as you can see: the 9 pages have become 6 pages at the bottom of the page). First sketches of the Moon Roach (when he was originally 'Corn King Roach" with a couple of ears of corn attached to his mask) and Artemis Strong. Sketch of Cerebus and the cab from later in the story.




HSANB 10/26 - Stray thoughts and sketches that weren't taking me anywhere – except that Cerebus had to go ballistic at some point.

~~FIVE~~ FOUR INTERNATIONAL CURRENCIES
PALNAN GOLD PIECE COPPER BIT TEN BIT
LOWER FELDAN GOLD PIECE COPPER BIT TEN BIT
SERIAN GOLD THREE SIZES CROWNS, GEBBLING, BITS
~~FESTAN~~
FEST CROWN

FESTAN CROWNS

PAGE 7 THE NEXT GUY COMES ALONG AND LETS THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG... WANT LORD JULIUS' EAR... CEREBUS WANTS TO KNOW WHAT THE FUSS IS ABOUT PALNU.

~~PAGE 8~~ & WE'VE MADE STUDIES OF PALNU AND LORD JULIUS' 24 UNIQUE method of organizing a bureaucracy... TO PUT IT AS SIMPLY AS POSSIBLE, ~~HOPELESS DEFICIENCIES IMPOSSIBLE~~ ~~ACCESS~~ OUR TRADITIONAL METHODS OF DOING BUSINESS.. DEALING WITH THE APPROPRIATIONS OFFICE OR THE BUDGET DIRECTOR ARE IMPOSSIBLE... OUR FIRST LETTER TO THE APPROPRIATIONS OFFICE IN PALNU WAS RETURNED WITH A FORMAL DECLARATION OF WAR AND AN INVITATION TO ~~A FORMAL~~ THE FESTIVAL OF PETUNIAS. ~~WE DECIDED~~ ~~[illegible]~~ WE ENGAGED THE SERVICES OF A CAREER CIVIL SERVANT IN PALNU TO HELP US WADE THROUGH THE RED TAPE. OUR FIRST MESSAGE FROM HIM WAS A DIRECTIVE FROM THE KLASON OFFICE FOR INTERNAL SECURITY WE INFORMED US THAT WE WAS BEING RELOCATED TO THE ~~[illegible]~~ ~~OFFICE OF THE~~ OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY BUT ~~[illegible]~~ A DIRECTORY OF PERTINENT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ~~[illegible]~~ AS SOON AS ~~WE~~ WE RECIEVED A CERTIFIED BANK DRAFT FOR TWENTY-THREE HUNDRED CROWNS WE SENT IT ~~[illegible]~~ BY COURIER AND WITHIN A WEEK WE RECEIVED ~~TO RECEIVED~~ A NOTE OF CONFIRMATION ~~[illegible]~~ FROM ~~THE~~ A CLERK IN SUPPLY AND SERVICES THANKING US FOR OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO ~~THE~~ LORD JULIUS' STUDY GROUP ON URBAN FORESTRY

NAMED BASKIN

FACING PAGES

9

CHARACTER DESIGN
WRITING
DRAWING
LETTERING
~~COVER~~ INKING
page

20%
7% writing
7% inking
~~3%~~
3% pencilling

HSANB 11/26 - The Skorz monologue, just the basic contents. Too dry and boring. That's when I decided to use the "Why you not sell me rights for Norway?" dialect I used to get in letters seeking to do foreign translations (an Aardvark-Vanaheim in-office joke).

THE EARTH-PIG ROLLS ITS OVER AS HE SIPS FROM HIS DELICATELY FINGER-BOWL

WE SENT A DEPUTY STATING THE NAME OF THE MAN WHOSE SERVICES WE HAD ENGAGED IN HIS CITY MENTIONING THAT HE WAS PRESENTLY EMPLOYED IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY AND THE ~~REGISTER~~ DIRECTORY OF PERTINENT GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENTS GERMANE TO OUR SITUATION.

INCORRECT AFTER

A THEY ANSWER ARRIVED WITHIN THE WEEK ~~LETTERS~~ OR FROM THE MINISTER OF URBAN FORESTRY INFORMING US THAT THE MAN WE HAD ENGAGED HAD USED

10 CEREBUS LIKES THE IDEA OF HAVING MONEY, BUT HE'S GOING TO GET THE TERMINAL YAWNS IF HE DOESN'T FIND ANYTHING MORE INTERESTING TO DO ... LEAVES... ~~CAFE SOCIETY~~ ~~ART~~ ~~HIGH SOCIETY, CAFE SOCIETY~~ ~~EXCLUSIVE, EXCLUSIVE~~ ~~AT THE PLAYBOY PENTHOUSE OF THE~~

I'M SORRY, SIR, THIS GENTLEMEN WAS ASKED ME TO WAIT.

A FARE IS A FARE CABBIE WHY YOU INSOLENT PUP! STAND ASIDE THIS INSTANT.

~~CEREBUS~~ ~~SHUT UP~~ UNLESS YOU WANT TO EAT THAT THING, CEREBUS WOULD ADVISE YOU TO...

CEREBUS ... MY WORD. NOT THE CEREBUS

THUMB

OF COURSE I DEFER TO YOU, ~~MY LORD~~, ~~SIR~~ GOOD SIR, BUT I HOPE I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PERSUADE YOU TO DINE ~~WITH ME~~ WITH ME AT MY CLUB

~~WOULD~~ ATE... SORRY DIDN'T YOU FIND SOMEWHERE ~~OH, CEREBUS~~, CEREBUS JUST ~~AS SOON EAT IT~~... ~~ELSE~~ ELSE TO PARK YOUR..

HSANB 12/26 - Continuation of the original Skorz monologue segueing into the Carron, McKiel and Bennie (Karen McKiel's cat was named Bennie) confrontation.

WOULD JULIUS BE MELTING ALL HIS MONEY, FORGING AN INDIVIDUAL CURRENCY, BIG BUY (AN ISLAND FROM SERIAN GOVERNMENT) WITH ONE CURRENCY, CREDIT RATING GOES UP HAS BIG MONEY, BUT IT COMES FLOODING IN IN BRIBES AND SOUL

ALL MAIL IS BROUGHT TO HIS OFFICE, OPENED, BRIBES ARE TAKEN OUT AND THROWN IN THE KITTY.

THEME HORROR HOLIDAY MOVIES "HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY"

| | |
|---|---|
| PALNAN GOLD PIECE | .50 |
| LOWER FELDRIN GOLD PIECE | .85 |
| SERIAN CROWN | .80 |
| ICESTAN CROWN | .80 |
| SERIAN GEBBUNG | . |
| SERIAN BIT | . |
| PALNAN TEN BIT | . |
| LOWER FELDRIN TEN BIT | |
| PALNAN COPPER | |
| LOWER FELDRIN COPPER | |

$

YOUR

OH NOW I REALLY MUST INSIST THAT YOU ALLOW ME TO EXTEND YOU SOME HOSPITALITY. AFTER ALL IT ISN'T OFTEN THAT WE ENJOY THE PRESENCE OF SO EMINENT A WORLD FIGURE AS YOURSELF. GOOD SIR IF YOU'VE, EATEN, I WOULD LIKE THAT WE MIGHT TAKE A TOUR OF

HSANB 13/26 - Getting bogged down in calculating the relative value of Estarcion's various currencies and having Cerebus expound upon it – which, of course, he wouldn't do. Stray thought on Holiday Theme Horror Movies like HALLOWEEN and FRIDAY THE 13TH – a horror version of ALICE IN WONDERLAND called "Happy UnBirthday" which you could go and see any day of the year that your birthday wasn't on. Working out Carron's dialogue.

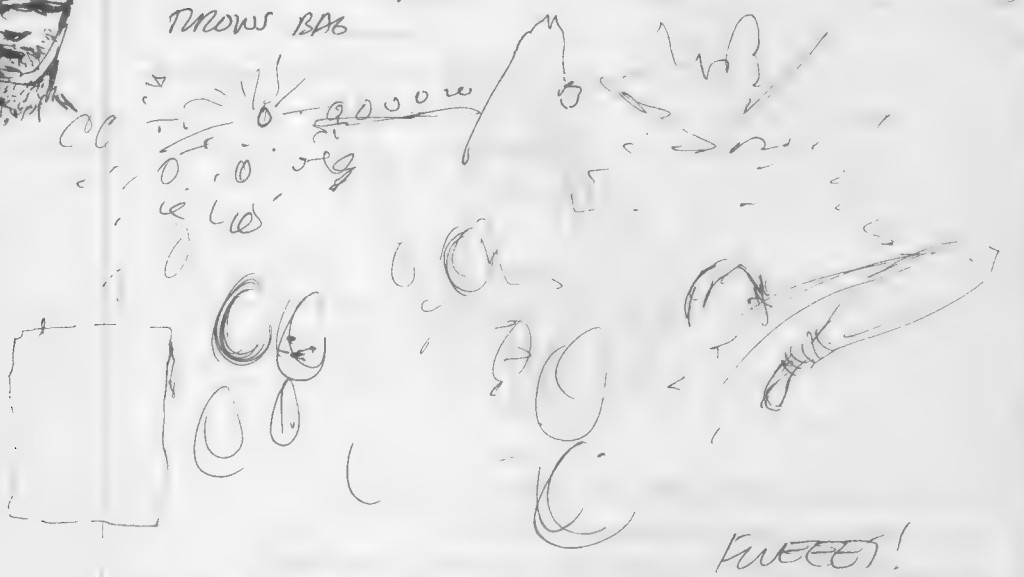
PAGE 1 GRIMM NUMBUR CREATED BY FENCE

I'LL CLEAN OUT MY HORSE'S STALL RIGHT NOW...

PAGE 1 ENTERING HOTEL PAGE 2 TAKE OVER FOR ME PAGE 3 ROOM AND A BATH 4 PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOU EATING 5 MORE PEOPLE MORE MONEY 6 LETS GET OUT OF BAG 7 WHY IT IS DIFFICULT SELLING TO PALMU. 8 CEREBUS TAKES MONEY 9 TIME TO MAKE SOME FUN CABBIE 10 ALMOST A FIGHT GETTING CLOSER 11 THE CEREBUS? 12 ON THE WAY TO PYRM DIAMONDBACK INTERRUPTIONS COMMENCE 13 WISH IT AN WANT SOME OF IT BACK 14 YAAA! AN FUN MONEY IS DRIVING ME CRAZY 15 CABBIE YESSIR 15 WHERE CAN CEREBUS GET A BAG OF ~~FLOUR~~ FERTILIZER EVERYTHING U NEED HERE'S A THOUSAND CROWN BANK BROKER FOR 2 CROWN WE HAVE ONE IN OUR OWN KITCHEN OPENED? OPENED... SIR THE BAG OF FERTILIZER IS ALREADY OPENED FINE -- OUT - GET IT! ANOTHER 16 TO THE DOCKS YOU SURE YOU WANTED TO COME HERE SIR GOES INSIDE.

THIS IS WHAT CEREBUS THINKS OF EVERY VILE PIG IN THIS WHOLE STINKING LIMP-WRISTED SALOON

THROWS BAG



FWEEET!

17 THEY COME TOWARDS HIM FWEEET FWEEET ~~HE~~ RACING PAST HORSES BREAKING HEADS

18 WHAT IS HE DETAINED TO FOLLOW YOU SIR

HSANB 14/26 - This is the sort of stuff I would write when I was partway into firming up the issue's continuity. One- and two-line distillations in the hopes that I could do the same with the pages I hadn't written yet. The transitions aren't there yet but I've got it figured out up to page 18 including a very rough sketch of the Ram's Lords Tavern melee (I switched the bag of fertilizer for a bag of flour).

WE WAS DETAILED TO FOLLER YOU, SIR, BREAK THE HEADS OF ANYONE WHAT COME NEAR YA...

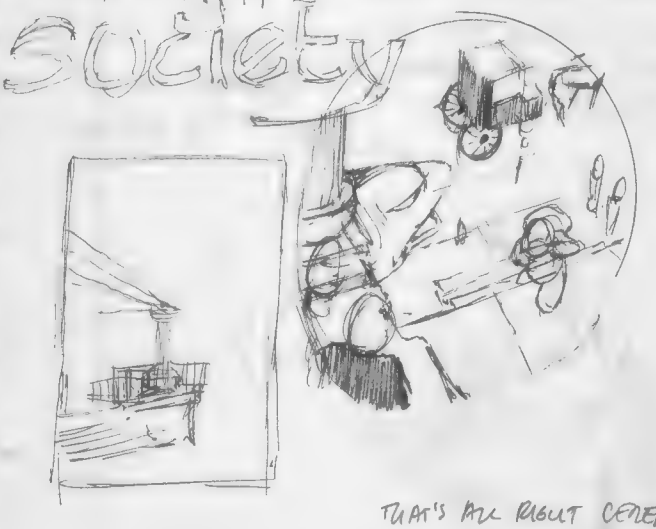
ANYBODY'S GOING TO DO A GOOD TURN FOR OUR 1EST IS ALL RIGHT BY US GUYS IN UNIFORM SIR...

"A HEALTHY ECONOMY MEANS A HEALTHY MILITARY."
OUR SUENTEW PO ONCE SAID THAT, SIR...

DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK CEREBUS DIDN'T WANT YOUR HELP

NOW, NOW, SIR I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKIN' -- WE'RE GOING TO TAKE ALL THE CREDIT.

high society



CEREBUS WAS TO GET A MORE EXPENSIVE HOTEL BECAUSE THEY'RE HAVING THE [redacted] SPRING FESTIVAL
RATES EXPENSIVE HOTELS WE'LL [redacted] HAVE TO FIGHT WITH THE DESK CLERK AND ANY GOONS THEY HAVE ON HAND FOR EVICTING "UNDESIRABLES."

THAT'S ALL RIGHT CEREBUS HAS BEEN ITCHING FOR A FIGHT SINCE WALKING THROUGH ALL THOSE SWAMPS KNEE DEEP IN MUCK...

HSANB 15/26 - Capt. Gill-Hodges when it was still a dialogue. Having him just read out the regulations helped compress the multi-page sequence into a couple of panels. At the bottom of the page, working out the story title logo and compositions of the splash page – still trying to come up with a reason that he would go to an expensive hotel like The Regency.

SLOGGING THRU THE SWAMPS

MORE EXPENSIVE

CEREBUS STAYING AT THE HOTEL BECAUSE ~~HE'S GOING TO~~ HE'S CARRYING A LOT OF MONEY AND THE LOOKING HOUSES IN ~~THE~~ ~~BACK~~ ~~PACKER~~ ~~AROUND~~ ARE ~~THE~~ EAST MARKET AND POWNELL SQUARE ~~WERE~~ RENOWNED FOR THEIR UNSAVORY CLIENTELE...

#27 (OPEN WITH KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT FROM KIDNAPPER'S POINT OF VIEW

THE EARTH-PIG WONDERS HOW MANY HOTEL EMPLOYEES HE WILL HAVE TO SERIOUSLY INJURE BEFORE HE'S SHOWN TO ~~HIS~~ ~~ROOM~~ A CLEAN ROOM WITH A BATH.

HSANB 16/26 - Cerebus button design that never got past the rough design stage. Cerebus slogging his way into the Regency and my last attempt at coming up with a reason for him to go to an expensive hotel. lower right: first sketch of Astoria.

HSANB 1/SW2 - This was really all the plotting I needed to do for the SWORDS volume 2 back-up story "The Morning After" which Joe Rubinstein would ink.

MASSAGING HIS TEMPLES
MOST UNUSUAL SHORT GREY CHAP
JUST CAME IN AND
BOUGHT A HALF
FOOT OF ~~FOX~~
FOX FUR

WHAT'S UNUSUAL
ABOUT THAT
WELL HE ~~BOT~~ ROLLED
IT UP, STUCK IT
IN HIS MOUTH
~~AH~~, CHEWED ON
IT FOR A FEW
SECONDS AND
SPIT IT OUT.

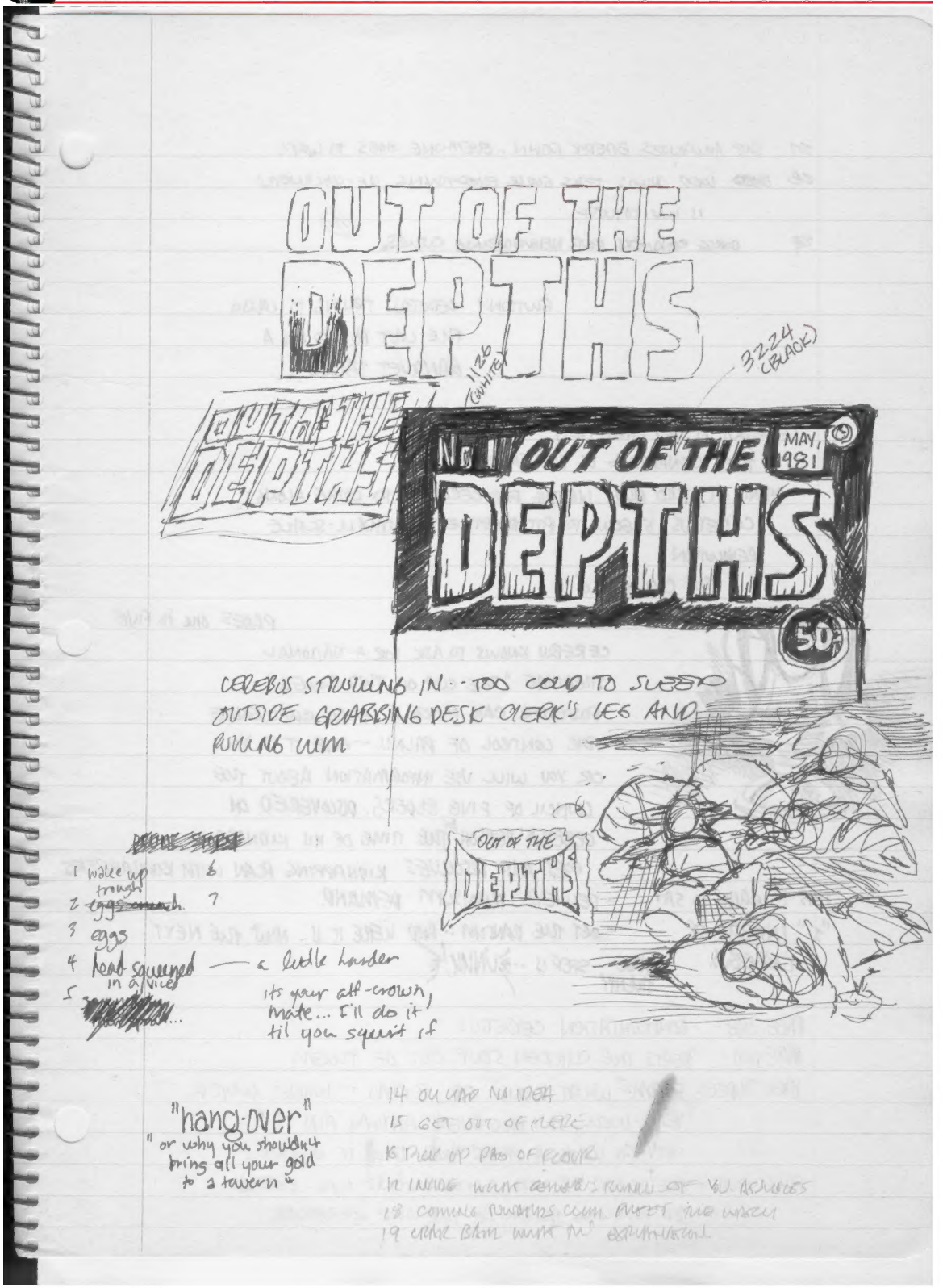
HSANB 2/SW2 - Sample dialogue for "The Morning After" before it became a completely silent (except for the sound effects) strip:

CLERK: Most unusual. Short grey chap just came in and bought a half-foot of fox fur...

BOSS: What's unusual about that?

CLERK: He rolled it up, stuck it in his mouth, chewed on it for a few seconds and spit it out.

BLACK ZEPPELIN logo which is pretty close to what Gene Day ended up using for his anthology title.


OUT OF THE DEPTHS
3224 (BLACK)
1126 (WHITE)
OUT OF THE DEPTHS
No 1 OUT OF THE DEPTHS
MAY 1981
50p
CEREBUS STRUGGLING IN - TOO COLD TO SLEEP OUTSIDE GRABBING DESK CLERK'S LEG AND RUNNING HIM
OUT OF THE DEPTHS
1 wake up 6
2 trough 7
3 eggs
4 head squeezed in a vice — a little harder
5
its your alf-crown, mate... I'll do it til you squirt if
"hang-over"
" or why you shouldn't bring all your gold to a tavern "

HSANB 17/26 - OUT OF THE DEPTHS logos. Gene Day was planning to revive the moribund digest comic. "The Morning After" outline in lower left, pre-silent strip treatment.

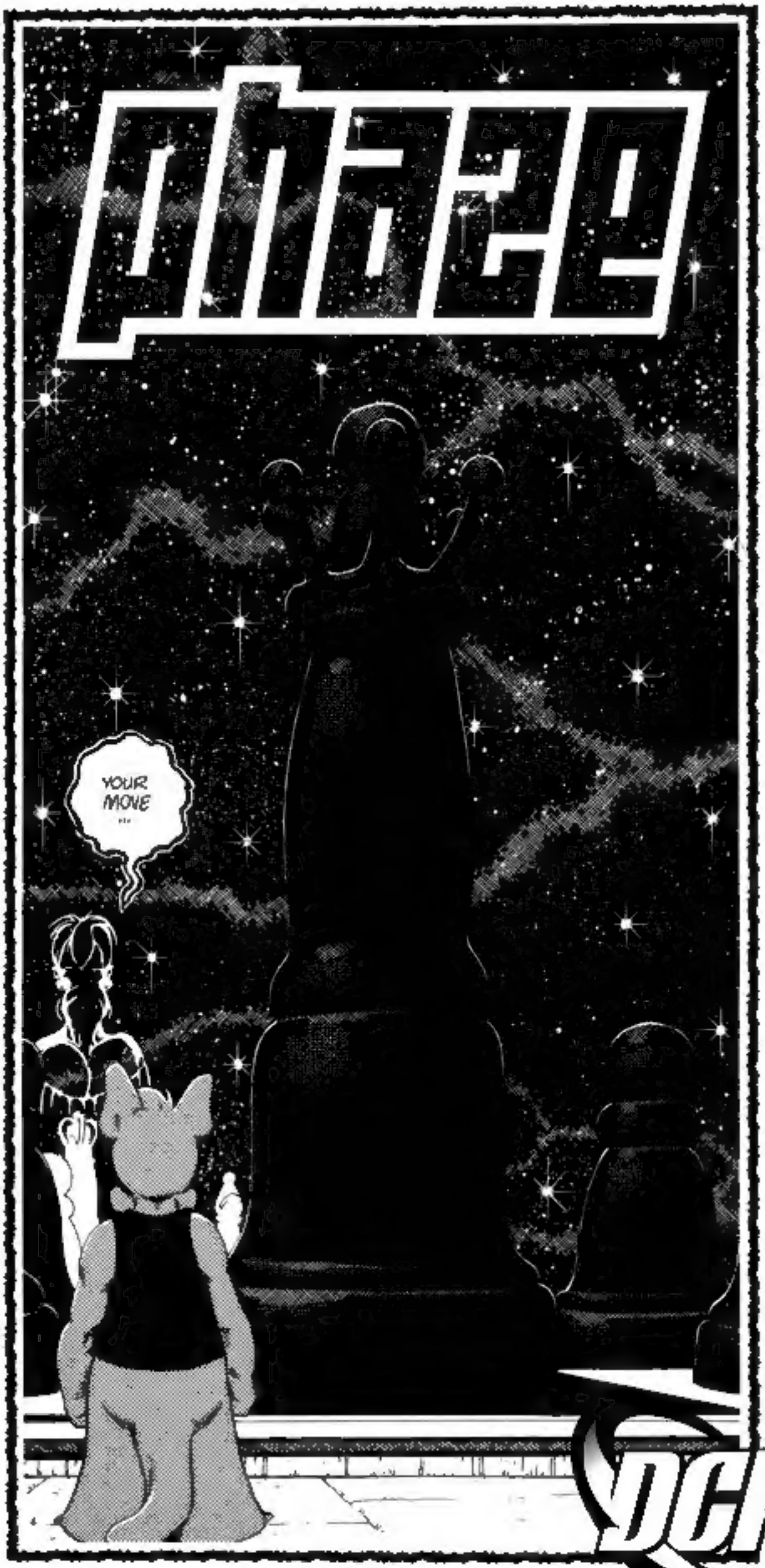
CEREBUS: (with head in vice) A little harder.

BLACKSMITH: It's your 'alf-crown, mate...I'll do it 'til you squirt if you [want]

End of issue 26 in pencil, bottom centre.

DAVE SIM
CEREBUS
DAVE SIM
HIGH SOCIETY
church
tate
church
tate
JAKA
STORY
MELMOTH
FLIGHT
WOMEN
READS
MINDS
GUYS
NICK'S
STORY
GOING
HOME
FARM
VOID
LATTER
DAYS
THE
LAST
DAY

# phase




DCP